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**OUR REFERENCE:**  
M5J10.JC.D10.CS

**YOUR REFERENCE:**  
TR010063

Date: 28 November 2024

Dear Mr Maund,

**Application by Gloucestershire County Council for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme: TR010063**

**Joint Councils' Closing Submission**

As per the ExA's Notice of Variation to the Examination Timetable [PD-020], the following sets out the Joint Councils' Examination Closing Submission.

The Joint Councils reiterate their support for the purpose of the Order and concur with the Applicant that works enabled by the Order will assist to unlock the development of additional housing in the Strategic Site Allocations and Safeguarded Land.

The M5 J10 DCO Scheme is consistent with the policies outlined within the adopted Gloucester, Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The JCS sets out the Councils' long-term vision, objectives and strategic policies for shaping and, locations for new development up to 2031. The JCS Transport Strategy, prepared to support the evidence base of the JCS, was agreed by both the Strategic and Local Highway authorities. Once the JCS was adopted the County Council's Local Transport Plan was updated to reflect the JCS Strategy. The highway improvements identified in the M5 J10 DCO Scheme are intended to mitigate the growth proposal outlined in the JCS.

The Joint Councils have agreed a final Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the Applicant which will be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 10 (D10). The SoCG shows the progression of discussions between the Joint Councils and the Applicant on matters within the SoCG. The following provides a summary of the principle matters that have been agreed or remain outstanding.

The Joint Councils and the Applicant have agreed the majority of the matters within the SoCG as set out in Table 4-1 of Section 4 of the final SoCG. A number of agreed matters require follow-up actions from both parties at the detailed design stage. These have been listed in paragraph 4.1.2 of the SoCG.

The Joint Councils highlight the following matters on which agreement has been more recently reached.

1. **Matter 9.5** on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: The visual assessment of the barriers proposed at Barn Farm Informal Travellers Site and properties on the south side of the A4019 east of West Cheltenham Fire Station assumes residents will have input into the design of the barriers. The Joint Councils understand that the final design may not be a vegetation solution. The final design of the barriers will be subject to detailed design and commitments made in item LV6 of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [most updated REP4-018 amended by AS-096] to consult the LPAs, GCC as Local Highway Authority and directly affected receptors.
2. **Matter 11.9** on Non-Designated Heritage Assets: The Joint Councils through the Conservation Officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) have identified a total of 8 properties that have been newly identified as Non-Designated Heritage Assets and are yet to be listed in the public domain. As a follow-up action of Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) Action Point item 8, the Joint Councils have provided the Applicant the names of the 8 properties along with the relevant criteria that are fulfilled by the properties. The Joint Councils look forward to the Applicant's update on their assessments within Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage) of the Environmental Statement.
3. **Matter 11.10** on Archaeological Management Plan (AMP): The revised AMP has been shared with the Joint Councils and the County Archaeologist. All comments from the County Archaeologist have been addressed.
4. **Matter 16.11** on lighting options for the Withybridge underpass: The Applicant has committed as part of detailed design to respond to the Joint Councils' comments on the ECI contractors technical note which provides further details on lighting options for the Withybridge underpass.
5. **Matters 22.6 and 22.7** on the Active Travel Provisions of the Scheme: The Joint Councils have reviewed the Active Travel Plan [REP5-030] and Active Travel Policy Position [Appendix A of REP7-010] submitted by the Applicant. The Joint Councils have now accepted that the Scheme provides compliance with Local Plan Policy and NPSNN paragraph 5.211. Please see the Joint Councils' response to question 15.0.4 of ExQ3 [REP9-014] for the Joint Councils' most updated position on the two matters.

The only matter that remains outstanding between the Joint Councils and the Applicant is the funding methodology for developer contributions. The respective positions of the parties are set out in Section 5 of the final SoCG.

6. The Joint Councils' planning position remains as set out in the Joint Councils' Planning Position Statement [REP4-048b] submitted at Deadline 4, and the letter to the Applicant dated 02 October 2024 [AS-081] submitted to the ExA after Deadline 5.

The Joint Councils reiterate their position in support of the Scheme. In the event that a Development Consent Order is granted by the Secretary of State (SoS), the three host authorities of the Joint Councils will continue to work with the Applicant as consultees under the provisions within the DCO.

Lastly, the Joint Councils would like to thank the ExA and the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team for their time on this DCO Scheme. If further information is required, please do not hesitate to be in contact via the M5 J10 Joint Councils project team: [M5J10JointCouncils@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:M5J10JointCouncils@atkinsrealis.com).

Yours sincerely,



Lewis Oliver

Associate Planner for and on behalf of The Joint Councils