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The Applicant and all other parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010064

Date: 17 June 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89(3)

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 9

Procedural Decision following issue of Acceptance decision

As set out in the Rule 4 letter [[PD-004](#)] published on 24 May 2024, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS) to be the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) that will examine and make a recommendation to the SoS for Transport on the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange project.

Following the decision of the SoS to accept the application for examination on 30 April 2024 [[PD-001](#)], the ExA has decided to make a number of Procedural Decisions to accept additional submissions and request the application be reviewed and updated/amended as necessary in light of the recently designated National Policy Statement for National Networks and adopted Places for Everyone Plan. The aim is to enable the ExA to better utilise the Pre-examination stage of this process to ensure that it has as much of the information it needs as early as possible in the overall process.

These requests follow the decisions to accept notification [[PD-001](#)], and publication of the Section 51 Advice [[PD-002](#)] and Section 55 Checklist [[PD-003](#)] that were issued on the 30 April 2024.

Additional Submissions

The ExA has exercised its discretion and made a procedural decision to accept the following Additional Submissions:

- Applicant's response to Section 51 and Section 55 Checklist Actions [Update Letter and associated documents and plans](#) received on 20 May 2024; and
- [GTC Pipelines Ltd Response submission](#) received on 21 May 2024.

NPS NN 2024 Designation

The 2024 National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPS NN) was designated after the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange scheme application was accepted for examination and as such, noting the contents of paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 of the 2024 NPS NN, the 2015 NPS should have effect for this application. However, the newly designated NPS may still be capable of being an important and relevant consideration in the decision-making process. The ExA has therefore made a procedural decision to request that the Applicant reviews the application documents (in particular but not limited to the Draft National Policy Statement for National Networks Accordance Tables [[APP-148](#)]) in light of the newly designated NPS and provide any updates and amendments as necessary.

The ExA requests that this exercise be completed, and any amendments/updates made by the close of the relevant representation period on 5 July 2024.

Places for Everyone

The ExA recognises that the application documents refer to the emerging Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan (such as The Case for the Scheme [[APP-146](#)] and Environmental Statement - Chapter 2 The Scheme [[APP-041](#)]). This is a long-term plan of nine Greater Manchester districts (including Bury) for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth. The ExA notes that the PfE Joint Development Plan 2022 to 2039 was adopted on 21 March 2024 just before the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange scheme application was submitted.

The ExA has therefore made a procedural decision to request that the Applicant reviews the application documents (in particular but not limited to The Case for the Scheme [[APP-146](#)] and all figures illustrating any site constraints and site allocations within the application documents) in light of the now adopted PfE Joint Development plan and provide any updates and amendments as necessary.

The ExA requests that this exercise be completed, and any amendments/updates made by the close of the relevant representation period on 5 July 2024.

If you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Holmes

Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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