

The following matters are raised by Leicester City Council as an affected Local Highway Authority as part of the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) DCO proposal:

1. Based on our review of the submission there is a discrepancy regarding the number of jobs the development proposals will generate. Numbers are between the range of 8,400 jobs to 10,400 jobs. It is understood that the Transport Assessment has been based around the lower number (and this could create some underreporting of trips).
2. We are aware the transport assessment has not yet been concluded. It is understood that the Applicant is undertaking a sensitivity test of the proposed modal split based on employee origins identified by a gravity model assessment. Whilst at present despite the observation above, we do not expect the envisaged highway impacts to differ significantly from those identified in the initial transport assessment, due to the relative distance from the proposed Hinckley National rail Freight Interchange site to the City of Leicester, we may need to reconsider our position if impacts identified on the City's highway network were to change significantly. The Sustainable Transport Strategy has not yet been agreed with stakeholders, but the mitigation so far proposed appears to be proportionate to the expected impacts for the City of Leicester, based on the outputs of modelling to date.
3. The Section 106 Heads of Terms (Document reference: 10.0 Revision 1 dated December 2022) includes a bus service contribution of £500,000 to Leicestershire County Council for improving the X6 bus service and covering additional hours to the existing timetable. The City Council is unclear how the contribution has been calculated and further discussions would be required. Furthermore, we anticipate the need to be signatories to any S106 agreement that includes obligations to deliver, and/or contributions to the cost of delivering, mitigation measures within the City of Leicester.
4. The City Council had initial discussions with the applicant about a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) in late Spring 2023. This included support for and / or direct provision of public transport service enhancements between the city and site, including public transport infrastructure enhancements within the city and / or financial support for city based employees. However, the Council has not had any further direct dialogue with the applicant or transport consultant since then and has not been listed as a party to enter into a SoCG as part of the submission documents. The Council is concerned that it has not been listed and it is imperative that this is required to fully secure the Sustainable Transport Strategy.
5. The City Council is only listed as a statutory authority, but not as an Interested Party. The City Council has requested to be an Interested Party to PINS on 28th September 2023. The Council therefore requests the right to be represented at the Examination.