

Meeting note

Project name	A57 Link Roads
File reference	TR010034
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	26 February 2021
Meeting with	Highways England (the Applicant)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update

The Applicant confirmed that statutory consultation on the updated scheme had been carried out between 5 November 2020 and 17 December 2020. Over 1000 consultation responses were received electronically with a further 500 responses received by post. Circa 67% of the consultation responses had expressed support for the proposed scheme. Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council and the Peak District National Park Authority had submitted holding objections on the basis that they wished to have the final assessment data available to them before establishing a position. Letters of objection were also received from environmental groups including Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and Friends of the Peak District National Park.

The Applicant explained that a number of the responses received comprising objections to the proposed scheme had been focused upon an incorrect assumption that the scheme formed part of a larger programme of work across the Pennines. The Applicant clarified that the emerging application was for a discrete, committed scheme with discrete objectives associated with the network at Mottram. It was not associated with any wider programme of development of the Strategic Road Network in the region.

The Applicant summarised a series of design changes which had been applied to the scheme following statutory consultation and informed by ongoing engagement with stakeholders including Transport for Greater Manchester and local authorities. These included:

- Amendments to the layout of M67 junction 4 to create a 'thoroughabout' and add improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists;
- additional pedestrian crossing facilities at the Gun Inn junction;

- additional signalisation at all junctions;
- incorporation of additional facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders along the route of the scheme;
- amendments/improvements to agricultural access; and
- consequential localised changes to the red line boundary.

Application submission logistics

The Inspectorate signposted the Applicant to its [Advice Note 6](#) which establishes detailed advice around the preparation and submission of application documents. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would send a 'warm-up' letter to the Applicant circa four weeks prior to the expected submission of the application. This would set out the various actions required of the Applicant in the build-up to submission, including provision of an updated GIS shape file.

The Applicant advised that it would be using Business Collaborator to submit the application.

Next steps

The Applicant confirmed that it expected to submit its application to the Inspectorate in May 2021. The next meeting between the Applicant and the Inspectorate would be scheduled for mid-April 2021.