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████████████████████
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Email: planningpolicy@nsdc.info

Dear Sir or Madam,

Local Development Framework Plan Review – Second Publication Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document – Regulation 19 Consultation.

Thank you for giving National Highways the opportunity to respond to the 2nd publication version of the Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document (ADMDDP) with respect of the Newark & Sherwood Development Plan. We previously responded to the initial consultation in November 2022 the consultation period running until January 2023. We understand that the ADMDDP is the second part of the Development Plan (Local Plan) for the district, following the adoption of the Core Strategy in March 2019.

The ADMDDP sets out allocations of land for new housing, employment, and other development for the district up to 2033. It also sets out housing and development management policies for the district over the Plan period.

We understand that following previous consultations, changes have been made to the ADMDDP document in readiness for submission to the Secretary of State, for examination. Further information has been provided by the Environment Agency in relation to the Tolney Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme. Additional information relating to the Gypsy/Traveller community has also been received and is to be included in the revised document warranting a further consultation period which will run until 6th November 2023.

Given the stage the document is at, the Council only wishes to seek Representations on the Plan on the grounds of whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements or alternatively its soundness in planning terms (as prescribed by Paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework [2021]).

National Highways Consideration

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity. In relation to the Newark & Sherwood Development Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A46 and the A1 trunk roads which route through the Plan area.

Consultation History and Approach

We have had significant previous engagement with the Council in the preparation of its Development Plan, most recently in August 2021 when we provided a response to the Allocations and Development Management Options Report & Open Space Strategy Consultation.

Throughout our engagement with the Council, it has been understood that the DPD supports the delivery of the Amended Core Strategy adopted in 2019. In a slightly unusual situation, the earlier 2011 Core Strategy had higher development targets and therefore rolling the plan period forward to 2033 has not required additional housing and employment allocations to be made. As such, the review of the DPD, which allocates land and policies for growth, has been to consider if the previously allocated land is still available and deliverable.

In light of the above, the transport evidence base underpinning this Local Plan review has consisted of a 'light touch' update to the 2010 Transport Study in order to ensure that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) remains appropriate. National Highways is accepting of this approach and has not requested to see any new highway capacity assessments for this review.

Notwithstanding this, throughout our engagement we have maintained our position that development in Newark and Sherwood has the potential to impact significantly upon the operation of the A46 and A1. As such, our position has been that any large strategic sites with the potential to impact upon the operation of the SRN shall be subject to Transport Assessments for their impacts to be appropriately assessed. We are happy that this requirement has been outlined in the allocation policies of the DPD.

In light of this, **National Highways is content that the ADMDPD has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements as set out the NPPF.**

If I can be of any further assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Steve Freek
Midlands Operations Directorate
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