

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Planning

TOWN PLANNING

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

UPDATED NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19

SECTION 56 PLANNING ACT 2008

REGULATION 9 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER M54 TO M6 LINK ROAD

DUE TO COVID-19, APPLICATION DOCUMENTS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT DEPOSIT POINTS.

DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON-LINE AT <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/m54-to-m6-link-road/?ipcsection=overview>

PLEASE CONTACT HIGHWAYS ENGLAND IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING DOCUMENTS USING THE DETAILS ON THIS NOTICE.

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM 20TH APRIL 2020 TO 18TH MAY 2020 TO ENSURE ALL PARTIES HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO COMMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Transport has accepted an application by **Highways England Company Limited** of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ ("the Applicant") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") under the Planning Act 2008 ("the Application"). The Application was submitted by Highways England to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate ("the Inspectorate") on Thursday 30 January 2020 and was accepted on **28 February 2020**. The reference number applied to the Application by the Inspectorate is TR010054.

The DCO would authorise the creation of a strategic link between the M54 Junction 1 and M6 Junction 11 (the "Scheme"). From south to north the main components of the Scheme are:

- Replacement of the existing M54 Junction 1 with free flow slip roads between the new link road and the M54. This would allow the freeflow of traffic between the M54 and the new link road in both directions and maintain connectivity with the existing local road network, via three new roundabouts.
- Construction of a new dual carriageway between M54 Junction 1 and the M6 Junction 11. The alignment of the carriageway would be located to the east of the existing A460 and the villages of Featherstone, Hilton and Shareshill and west of Hilton Hall.
- Dark Lane would be stopped-up between the final property and the junction with Hilton Lane.
- The realignment of Hilton Lane on a bridge over the mainline of the Scheme. The bridge would be reconstructed on a similar alignment and would provide sufficient clearance for the new road.
- Provision of an accommodation bridge and access track across the mainline of the Scheme to retain access to severed land to the east of the Scheme. The route of the new link road would then continue north to the east of Brookfield Farm to link into the M6 Junction 11.
- Enlargement of the M6 Junction 11 signalised roundabout to accommodate a connection to the new link road and realign existing connections with the A460 and M6. Two replacement bridges would be required over the M6 to provide an increase in capacity from two lanes to four lanes of traffic on the roundabout. This work would raise the height of the junction by approximately 1.5 metres.

The DCO would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.

The DCO would make provisions in connection with several ancillary matters, for example, the temporary and permanent stopping up of streets, public rights of way and private means of access in the vicinity of the Scheme; reclassification of roads and the amendment, disapplication and modification of relevant legislation.

The Scheme is Environmental Impact Assessment development ("EIA development") as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The Application is therefore accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The application form and the accompanying documents, plans and Environmental Statement can be viewed online at the National Infrastructure website for the Application:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/m54-to-m6-link-road/?ipcsection=overview>

If you can not view these documents on-line, we can send you a USB stick free of charge.

Any person may make representations on the Application to the Secretary of State (i.e. giving notice of any interest in or objection to the Application). Any representation relating to the Application must be submitted on a registration form and give the grounds on which it is made. The Inspectorate have issued detailed advice on registering as an interested party and making a relevant representation, to which you are advised to have regard. This Advice Note (8.2 – How to Register to Participate in an Examination) is published on the National Infrastructure Planning website under 'Legislation and Advice' and can be found at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

The Registration and Relevant Representation form is available via the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/m54-to-m6-link-road/?ipcsection=relreps>

Please note due to the current health crisis the Planning Inspectorate can no longer send or receive paper forms. If you are unable to complete a registration form online and would like to register your interest, please call the helpline on 0303 444 5000 or email M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk for advice on how to register.

Please quote reference number TR010054 in all correspondence with the Inspectorate about this Application.

Representations must be received by the Inspectorate no later than 23:59 on the 18th May 2020. Please note that any submitted representations to the Inspectorate will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website for the Application.

Further information about the Application may be obtained from Highways England as follows:

Email: M54toM6linkroad@highwaysengland.co.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

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