

Your ref: Solihull Local Plan Review
Our ref: As above

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Via Email: policyandspatialplanning@solihull.gov.uk

Catherine Townend
Asset Manager
Operations Directorate

The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN
www.highways.gov.uk

05 March 2019

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Solihull Draft Local Plan Supplementary Consultation

Thank you for forwarding me details of the consultation dated 29 January 2019 on the Solihull Draft Local Plan (SDLP) Supplementary Consultation document.

Highways England 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) in England. It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN. The SRN in Solihull includes sections of the M42 and M6 Motorways, and the A45, A452 and A446 Trunk Roads.

We welcome this opportunity to provide comments on the Solihull Draft Local Plan and would invite Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to continue to engage with us to ensure that we can reach agreement on a suitable evidence base and policy framework which will consider the implications for our network.

The Plan sets out the Borough's visions for its future and includes the allocation of sites to promote development. Since previous consultations on the Plan there have been no additional allocations which we consider, alone, are likely to have a significant impact on the SRN in principle. The current consultation includes a review of the housing allocations only.

Nonetheless, as the Plan seeks to meet the objectively assessed needs for Solihull in addition to catering for the wider housing market shortfall of the housing market area, the SDLP therefore includes significant allocations across the Borough. Highways England is yet to be consulted on the detail of a formal transport evidence base, which details the cumulative impact of the policies contained within the Plan and allocations on the SRN within the Borough and immediate surrounding areas.

We therefore wish to reiterate comments made in response to previous consultations on the Plan in that we will require a comprehensive assessment of the proposed allocations

and the transport related policies contained within it. This will be necessary to consider the cumulative impact of forthcoming development upon the SRN, and ensure the potential transport implications are considered, with necessary mitigation and infrastructure planned accordingly.

In light of the scale of growth contained within the plan, the cross boundary implications of growth will need to be considered. The cumulative growth implications of the adopted Birmingham Development Plan will be relevant, as will allocations contained in the local plans of other neighbouring authorities including those in North Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District. Issues that are emerging somewhat in parallel within the Worcestershire District of Bromsgrove are also relevant. We note that the additional allocation in Balsall Common contained in the current proposals may add to overall cumulative implications of growth for the SRN in Warwickshire and that it is possible that implications for the A46 (part of the SRN) may also need to be considered.

As set out in our previous response, Highways England are keen to work jointly with SMBC to agree a coordinated way forward to provide the evidence base required. We appreciate your engagement at this stage of the consultation, and would request ongoing involvement in the development of the Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Townend
OD Midlands
Email: Catherine.townendn@highwaysengland.co.uk

Cc: Adrian Johnson (Highways England)
Patsy Dray (Highways England)
Chris Cox (SYSTRA)