

Planning Policy
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Spatial Planning and Economic
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18 December 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on the North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the North West Leicestershire Local Plan (NWLLP) Partial Review. It is our understanding that the Partial Review seeks to extend the timescales by which a Substantive Review of the current Local Plan adopted in 2017 needs to be submitted. The Substantive Review, which is being undertaken in parallel, will extend the plan period beyond 2031.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as 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). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to the NWLLP, our principal interest is safeguarding the operation of the M1, A42 and sections of the M42, A50 and A453.

The changes proposed by the Partial Review to the Local Plan are limited to the wording of *Policy S1 – Future Housing and economic development needs*. The alterations change the wording of the policy previously requiring the submission of the Plan Review within two years from the commencement of the review, to instead require the completion of a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) dealing with the redistribution of any unmet need from Leicester City, and the submission of a replacement Local Plan to take place within 18 months of the date at which the SOCG is agreed by all authorities.

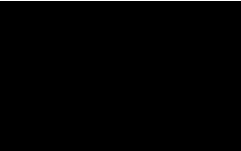
We understand that this review is in order to collect robust evidence to support the planning policies in the Local Plan before a substantive review is submitted, in particular those related to housing and employment land needs for the District, which are currently uncertain.

The rewording of Policy S1 also aims to introduce a mechanism (SOCG) to deal with the redistribution of unmet housing needs from Leicester City. It is our understanding that the extent of housing needs that Leicester City cannot meet within its own boundaries is

currently still unclear, however we consider it would be important for the North West Leicestershire District Council to ensure that in dealing with it, there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to accommodate the growth. This includes adequate capacity on the SRN to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the network and we would expect that the impacts from the redistribution of unmet needs from Leicester City are appropriately assessed. This will allow for any potential impacts on the operation of the SRN to be better understood and relevant mitigation to be identified.

We have no further comments to provide but would welcome further engagement with North West Leicestershire District Council as the housing requirement becomes clearer and as the review of the Local Plan progresses.

Yours sincerely



Midlands Operations Directorate

Email: 

