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01 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Consultation on the Examination version of the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Examination version of the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan which covers the period 2020 – 2031. It should be noted that we have previously submitted comments on this consultation to Ashby de la Zouch Town Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021, which are still considered to be valid.

It is noted that the document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out several key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help review planning applications.

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). 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 Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A42, M42 and A38 which route approximately 2 miles to the east, 4 miles to the south and 7 miles to the west of the Plan area respectively.

We understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with relevant national and Borough-wide planning policies. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Blackfordby is required to be in conformity with the adopted North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan (2011-2031) and this is acknowledged within the document.



As set out in our previous response in April 2021 addressed to Ashby Town Council, upon the review of the Examination version of the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan, it is established that planning approval was granted for 217 dwellings within the Parish while the target indicated by North West Leicestershire District Council identifies a further 126 dwellings to be provided by 2031. We also note that an additional 14 dwellings have been identified within Policy H1 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Due to the limited level of growth currently being proposed across the Neighbourhood Plan area, we do not expect that there will be any impacts on the operation of the SRN.

We have no further comments to make and trust that the above is useful in the progression of the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Assistant Spatial Planner

[Redacted contact information]