

Our ref: 15/0119
Your ref: 15/0119

Ian MacLeod,
Planning Development Manager
Birmingham City Council

via Email:
ian.macleod@birmingham.gov.uk

Matthew Taylor
Network Delivery and Development
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Tel : 0121 687 2550
www.highways.gov.uk

7 April 2015

Dear Ian

As you will aware the City Council has asked Highways England to comment on the revised sustainability appraisal report for the Birmingham Development Plan.

Highways England has succeeded the Highways Agency from 1 April 2015 as the highway authority for the strategic road network including the M6, M5 and M42 motorways in the Birmingham Development Plan area.

Highways England has reviewed the revised sustainability appraisal report and makes the following observations:

The revised sustainability appraisal report highlights that the transport implications of potential green belt housing numbers or employment land allocations greater than that set out in the submitted Birmingham Development Plan have not been assessed. In evidence at the public examination the Highways Agency's position was clear that no developers had made an approach to seek an informed view of traffic impacts at M42 junction 9 of their proposed additional land allocations within the BDP area. This position remains current.

The revised sustainability appraisal report concludes that the site allocations in the submitted strategy are the most appropriate in sustainability terms and that sequential testing in line with the relevant policies supports this view. Highways England notes this conclusion and the implication that the previous assessment of transport impact for the strategic road network (and M42 junction 9 in particular) remains valid.

Given the above comments at this stage we reserve our position on assessment of traffic impacts should the Inspector recommend an increase in housing numbers or quantum of employment land in the green belt north and east of Sutton Coldfield.

Highways England is supportive of the multi-LEP housing study currently being conducted by Peter Brett Associates and will be pleased assist in assessing the implication for transport infrastructure of the findings.

Highways England is content for this letter to be shared with the Birmingham Development Plan Inspector.

Please feel free to contact me on the details above if you wish to discuss this response in more detail.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Taylor
NDD Midlands
Email: catherine.townend@highwaysengland.co.uk

cc: Catherine Townend (Highways England)
Chris Cox (JMP)