

**NCC/JD/2**

THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

AND

THE ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (A614/A6097 JUNCTIONS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME)  
(SIDE ROADS) ORDER 2022

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (A614/A6097 JUNCTIONS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME)  
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2022

SUMMARY PROOF OF EVIDENCE

OF

JOELLE DAVIES, BA (hons), MSc

OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ON BEHALF OF THE ACQUIRING AUTHORITY

SEPTEMBER 2023

## **1. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- 1.1. My name is Joelle Davies and I am the project sponsor for the A614/A6097 Junction Improvement Scheme. I am the Group Manager for Growth, Infrastructure and Development at Nottinghamshire County Council (“NCC”). I have a BA (Hons) in Geography and Cities, a MSc in Urban and Regional Planning and have been a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute until this year.
- 1.2. NCC is the local highway authority for the County of Nottinghamshire and is responsible for maintaining and repairing the highway including roads such as the A614 and the A6097.
- 1.3. My role at the County Council includes being the Council’s lead for Economic Growth and Regeneration, with new road and rail infrastructure being identified as a key enabler for economic growth within the county.

## **2. INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SCHEME**

- 2.1. Since my arrival at NCC in October 2021, I have been the project sponsor. The project sponsor is the person responsible for the overall success of the project including appointing the project manager and team, defining success criteria, and ensuring the successful delivery of the project. The Transport Programme Delivery, Investment and Growth team have been the lead team at NCC, and their manager reports directly to me.

## **3. SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**

- 3.1. This Proof of Evidence focuses on matters relating to the strategic development and funding for the Scheme under consideration, for which NCC is seeking to acquire the Order land compulsorily.

#### **4. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF THE SCHEME**

- 4.1. Traffic congestion at various junctions along the A614/A6097 corridor has been a concern for many years and has been a longstanding priority for NCC. Pressure groups such as Ollerton Village Residents Association (“**OVRA**”) have long campaigned for action at Ollerton Roundabout for many decades and in 2007 NCC held a number of consultation events showcasing potential options to upgrade the junction. Unfortunately, potential funding opportunities were not forthcoming, and this was then followed by the global financial crisis of 2008/09 which restricted local and funding streams even further. NCC made some low-cost alterations to the roundabout as an interim measure in 2011 which did initially help ease the rat running problem through Ollerton village.
- 4.2. NCC and Newark and Sherwood District Council then identified the Housing Infrastructure Fund (“**HiF**”) as a potential funding source for the Ollerton scheme in 2017 but the business case submission was unsuccessful.
- 4.3. In July 2017 the Department for Transport (“**Dft**”) published the Transport Investment Strategy “Moving Britain Ahead” [**Core Document “CD” 12.19**] which committed the Government to creating a Major Road Network (“**MRN**”). The National Roads Fund that was announced in 2018 made £3.5 billion available for local roads such as the A614 and A6097 through the delivery of the MRN and Large Local Major Schemes (“**LLM**”). This funding opportunity presented an

opportunity for NCC to make the necessary improvements to Ollerton Roundabout and to also look at the A614/A6097 corridor in general.

4.4. In December 2020 NCC submitted an Outline Business Case (“**OBC**”) [CD14.1] to the DfT for six junction upgrades along the A614/A6097 corridor and the Scheme was granted Programme Entry by the DfT in June 2021. The Scheme had outlined five key objectives:

- Reduce congestion;
- Support economic growth and housing delivery;
- Support the Strategic Road Network (“**SRN**”);
- Reduce journey time delays and variability; and
- Support all other road users.

4.5. Planning applications for the six schemes were submitted to the Local Planning Authority in February 2022 with planning permissions granted on 27<sup>th</sup> September. NCC made the Compulsory Purchase Order (“**CPO**”) and Side Road Orders (“**SRO**”) for the Scheme on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

4.6. Following the securing of planning permission, NCC commissioned a cost validation exercise for the package and the inflationary pressures felt within the construction sector and economy in general had resulted in a significant increase to the total cost. After detailed consideration and in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member and the DfT it was proposed to omit the Mickledale Lane junction from the DfT funded package to ensure the Scheme was affordable and would bring the Scheme back to within the DfT’s Benefit Cost Ratio (“**BCR**”) requirements.

## 5. SCHEME FUNDING

- 5.1. The total Scheme cost for the five junction works package is now £34,440,981 and NCC's financial contribution has increased by £5.8m when compared to the December 2020 OBC submission resulting in a total funding contribution of £8.4m. The approval to increase the Council's financial contribution was approved by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023. The DfT will provide a maximum capped funding contribution of £23.339m and the DfT made a funding contribution of £1.5m in July 2022 and £1.1m in August 2023. The Council has also secured third-party contributions through Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy ("CIL") totalling £1.7m. Harworth Group PLC has already paid a financial contribution of nearly £1.2m to NCC.
- 5.2. NCC is fully committed to delivering the Scheme having expended considerable resources to date in obtaining the necessary Statutory approvals required to deliver the Scheme.

## **6. SUMMARY**

- 6.1. In conclusion, I respectfully request that the Secretary of State approves the Nottinghamshire County Council (A614/A6097 Junction Improvement Scheme) Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders 2022.

Date: 4 September 2023