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# Addendum Report to the Secretary of State for Transport

by Stephen Roscoe BEng MSc CEng MICE

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport

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Date: 12 February 2018

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## HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

## ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981

**THE CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL (A536 CONGLETON LINK ROAD) (CLASSIFIED ROAD) (SIDE ROADS) ORDER 2016**

**THE CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL (A536 CONGLETON LINK ROAD) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2016**

Dates of Inquiries: 16, 17 and 24 May 2017

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File Ref: NATTRAN/NW/LAO/122

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Having received my report dated 27 July 2017, the Secretary of State for Transport has asked for clarification in relation to the accuracy of the air quality monitoring data presented to me by Cheshire East Borough Council in connection with my report.
- 1.2 This Addendum report provides the clarification sought, and considers the effect on my previous conclusions and recommendations. In preparing this Addendum Report, I have been provided with the following further evidence from the Council which comprises a letter dated 15 January 2018 to the National Transport Casework Team together with Appendices A to D [CEC/27]. I have also been provided with a Notification of decision concerning a claim for Planning Statutory Review, Ref CO/4066/2017 [CEC/28], which I have taken account of in the preparation of this Addendum report.

## **2. AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA**

- 2.1 Errors have been identified in the Council's air quality data from the period of 2011 to 2015. This data was used in the Environmental Statement (ES) for the scheme and in the air quality evidence presented at the Inquiry. The erroneous data has now been corrected, and the Council has reviewed the effect of this on the ES and the air quality evidence<sup>1</sup>. This review focussed on nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) was not assessed because all predictions were well below the relevant air quality standards.
- 2.2 The corrected data leads to an increase in predicted NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the Council's three Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) that were presented to the Inquiry for the Do-Minimum scenario<sup>2</sup>. This is without the scheme in place.
- 2.3 The increase in predicted NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations without the scheme also leads to a greater improvement in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the AQMAs as a result of the scheme. The higher concentrations do however mean that the scheme is not now expected to remove current Air Quality Objective (AQO) exceedances in their entirety from the Woodlands AQMA as was previously predicted.

## **3. CHANGES TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Having considered the matters set out in this Addendum Report, it is necessary that Paragraph 3.54 of my report dated 27 July 2017 should be replaced with the following text to reflect the further evidence submitted:
- 3.2 The local air quality assessment predicted that certain receptors within the assessment area would exceed the NO<sub>2</sub> current Air Quality Objective (AQO)

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<sup>1</sup> CEC/27

<sup>2</sup> CEC/27 Appendix D

during 2017 without the scheme<sup>3</sup>. All of these receptors are located in the West Road and Woodlands AQMAs along the A34. The assessment indicated that the scheme would result in a reduction in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at all of these 17 receptors. Ten of the 12 receptors within the Woodlands AQMA are predicted to experience a reduction in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations that would remove their AQO exceedances. Receptors in the Rood Hill AQMA, which would not exceed the NO<sub>2</sub> AQO during 2017 without the scheme, would also experience a reduction in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

- 3.3 There are no changes necessary to any other paragraphs in section 3 of my report which deal with general air quality benefits, as I am satisfied that there continues to be a significant beneficial effect on local air quality as a result of the scheme. I am also satisfied that the planning permission remains valid, as set out by the Council<sup>4</sup>, and that no changes are necessary to my report in this regard.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Having considered the matters set out in this Addendum Report, I find no changes to be necessary to the conclusions and recommendations in my report dated 27 July 2017.

*Stephen Roscoe*

INSPECTOR

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<sup>3</sup> CEC/27 Appendix D

<sup>4</sup> CEC/27