

Our ref: [REDACTED]
Your ref: [REDACTED]

Mark A. Hoyle
Head of Regeneration and Housing,
Hyndburn Borough Council
Scaitcliffe House
Ormerod Street
Accrington
Lancashire BB5 0PF

Bruce Parker

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

25th April 2025

Dear Mark,

Huncoat Garden Village (Policy SP2): National Highways Position Statement

National Highways has been working alongside Hyndburn Borough Council and Homes England to inform the evidence base in respect of the Huncoat Garden Village allocation that forms part of the wider Hyndburn Local Plan 2040.

In parallel, National Highways has been reviewing the cumulative effect of the Local Plan aspirations in respect to the operation of Junction 8, M65. Productive discussions have been held between the above parties which acknowledge previous National Highways Regulation 19 Local Plan representations and the underlying policy environment.

A concept Junction 8 improvement scheme to enable the Huncoat Garden Village allocation has been identified. Without prejudice to our comments in relation to government policy in relation to the Strategic Road Network, it is reasonable to assume that this improvement would be able to cater for movements associated with the predicted cumulative Local Plan growth (and in particular that related to Huncoat Garden Village) and that National Highways will have sufficient funding, and the scheme have sufficient priority, for the improvement to be delivered before 2031.

National Highways are keen to support and progress a scheme at Junction 8, including informing any necessary package of works in relation to the adjacent local road network. Therefore, National Highways commits to working with Homes England, Hyndburn Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to formalise the scheme and a collective funding strategy to realise the necessary works (including improvements to the Shuttleworth Mead junction).

It is anticipated that further representations will be agreed as part of the Hyndburn Borough Council / National Highways Local Plan Statement of Common Ground which will clarify the wider policy position in planning terms and also confirm the ongoing commitment to bring forward an improvement scheme at Junction 8, and any

associated package of works. It is anticipated that the Statement of Common Ground will be a working document which will iterate as more detail becomes available, reflecting of the ongoing scheme development.

National Highways is committed to work with all parties on the above basis, and at this early stage, National Highways reserves the right to return without consequence any funding contribution as agreed.

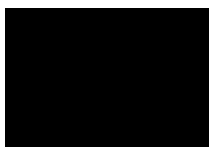
For clarity, National Highways retains a licence responsibility to uphold the Government policy as captured in the Planning Circular 01/2022. In discharging its licence, National Highways will make a formal recommendation when consulted on a planning application, which may be to 'offer no objection', 'recommend conditions', 'recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period' or 'recommend that the application be refused'.

Recognising the above, and the outcome of the Local Plan Examination, National Highways would only recommend refusal of planning application(s) for residential development at Huncoat Garden Village in circumstances;

1. where a residential planning application is not adequately supported by an agreed Transport Assessment or,
2. where the safe operation of the Strategic Road Network would be compromised as a consequence of the proposed development or,
3. where RIS 3 budget is not secured and the required works to Junction 8 M65 and any associated package of work cannot proceed due to a lack of funds.

I look forward to working with all parties to develop / realise the necessary highway works and ensure this is supported by the necessary evidence which demonstrates the viability of the Local Plan at the forthcoming Examination in Public.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Parker
Head of Planning and Development

cc: [REDACTED], Homes England