

Note by NNTAG to Examination 25 November 2010 7172

Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy Examination November 2010

Deliverability of Norwich Northern Distributor Road and Postwick Hub Further note on A47 Postwick Interchange Orders

1. Document RF-40, the HA – GNDP Statement of Common Ground (RF-40, 16 Nov 2001, para 5.9) states that ‘The Highways Agency and the County Council are currently working together to determine the best approach to commence the public inquiry process’.
2. In Document RF-73, NNTAG statement on Deliverability of Norwich NDR and Postwick Hub, Section 3, we stated The Postwick Hub (A47 Postwick Interchange Slip Roads and Side Roads Orders) cannot be delivered separately from the NDR. As confirmed in the DfT’s letter of 17 November to NNTAG (Doc RF-72) the two are to be treated from now on as one scheme.
3. During the discussion on Matter 4, 23 November, the Highways Agency’s representative made a verbal statement that there was one scheme for funding but that he didn't see that there was a problem in taking the Orders to inquiry before seeking planning permission for a NDR.
4. This verbal statement ignores the need to justify the Postwick Interchange Orders. That requires a full traffic and economic case. The case advanced for the Postwick Interchange Orders is based on the full NDR; they are not justified if there is no NDR.
5. There can be no public inquiry into the Postwick Interchange Orders without there being in existence and presented an up to date and full justification of the NDR, which they are part of. An Inquiry announced without this full justification of the NDR would be unable to be held, and if commenced would be likely to be abandoned with costs awarded to objectors.

6. The Highways Agency's representative on 23 November was acting on the brief he had been given before the Department for Transport's policy statement issued on 26 October; and before the DfT made specific statements about the NDR and Postwick Hub in its letters of 9 and 17 November which are now Examination documents.

7. The new need to examine a Plan B alternative to the NDR is also relevant (Doc RF-75). The form of improvement to Postwick Interchange with the Plan B partial alternative is likely to be on the lines shown in the Landstock Estates & Landowners Group Matter 3 Appendices, drawings for A47 Postwick Interchange area. This is a very different scheme and would require different Highways Act Orders from those currently published in draft

8. The Examination should therefore conclude that a Public Inquiry into the A47 Postwick Interchange Orders cannot take place in all the present circumstances as they now stand at the close of the Examination.