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Dear Sir or Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (CONSTULATION) (ENGLAND) DIRECTION 2009  
NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Please find enclosed documents relating to a planning proposal, submitted to Manchester City Council which involves development as specified in the 2009 Direction referred to above. The Council has considered this application and determined not to refuse it. In consequence, the provisions of the Direction apply.

Planning Permission is sought by Manchester City Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Cheshire East Council for the construction of the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR) (whole route), incorporating:

- Seven new road junctions;
- Modification to four existing road junctions;
- Four new rail bridge crossings;
- Three new public rights of way/accommodation bridges;
- Four new road bridges;
- A pedestrian & cycle route;
- Six balancing ponds; and
- Associated landscaping, lighting and infrastructure works.

Of which the following is within the Manchester:

- One new road junction;
- One new rail bridge crossing;
- One balancing pond for drainage purposes;

- A pedestrian and cycle route
- Associated landscaping, lighting, engineering and infrastructure works

Location: Land to the south of Ringway Road; the east & west of Styal Road and west of the Styal Railway Line, Manchester

The scheme, as proposed would provide a relief road orientated east-west between the A6 near Hazel Grove (Stockport) via the existing A555 to Manchester Airport. It would comprise two new sections of dual carriageway, the first section is approximately 5.1km in length, starting from a new realigned section of the A6 at Hazel Grove and extending west to the existing A555 at Woodford Road, Bramhall. The second section is approximately 3.2km in length and is an extension to the existing A555 which currently terminates at Wilmslow Road. The route continues in a westerly direction to Manchester Airport and in turn provides a link to the wider motorway network.

This referral is the second of three planning applications which make the constituent parts of the road scheme. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council have already referred the application to yourselves and I understand that the planning application being dealt with by Cheshire East Council is before their Planning Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

The A6MARR will improve access to Manchester Airport and provide better connectivity along the South Manchester corridor, to assist Greater Manchester and Cheshire East in meeting their aspirations for economic growth. The scheme directly supports the Governments objectives to provide major transport infrastructure that will deliver economic growth, a fact acknowledged by the announcement on prioritisation for funding in the Chancellor's Autumn Statements in November 2011. The scheme is proposed to provide congestion relief to local communities and will generate wider benefits to business through improved journey time and reliability on the local roads and strategic highway network.

The proposal is an integral component of the wider South East Manchester Multi-Modal Strategy (SEMMMS), which has delivered benefits to local communities across south-east Manchester through a range of public transport and sustainable transport measures over the past 10 years. The A6MARR is critical to delivering the long-term objectives of the SEMMMS strategy, and to meet national objectives for growth, employment and connectivity.

An east-west transport connection to Manchester Airport, principally following the route of the current planning proposal for the A6MARR has been identified on various plans since the 1930's. The Highways Agency, the body previously responsible for delivering major road schemes progressed a preferred route which was agreed following a Public Inquiry in 1988.

You will note from the enclosed committee report that the City Council issued a total of 647 notification letters to local residents and businesses, posted 10 site notices and advertised this development in the Manchester Evening News. For a scheme of this magnitude the level of opposition is extremely low. It is considered that this is testament to the extensive public engagement which has been carried out by the project team over the last 4 years. This engagement has ensured that the community and those most directly affected by the proposed road have been kept fully informed throughout the process.

During the consideration of the application a number of residents raised concern regarding scheme being located through designated Green Belt and its impact upon the Green Belt. The NPPF seeks to protect the Green Belt, however full justification and 'Very Special Circumstances' have been discussed and considered at length within the report. In summary it is considered that:

- The scheme is important for economic growth, with the existing situation considered to be constraining the local economy whilst affecting air quality and limiting access to key destination;
- The building of the relief road would ensure delivery of key components of SEMMMS, which supports the Governments initiative to 'Keep Britain Moving' and;
- Whilst being located within the Green Belt, the scheme has been enshrined in the Councils Development Plan Documents and safeguarded from any further development to protect the route of the scheme. As previously mentioned, the general route of the scheme has been protected by a number of schemes since the 1930's, with the scheme pre-dating the Green Belt allocation.

The proposal has gained the support of the local Member of Parliament, Mike Kane, whose constituency the road would pass through, I have enclosed a copy of his letter within the suite of documents for your consideration. It should be noted that this letter was received post-resolution of the Council. As you will see the Member of Parliament recognises the scheme as an integral part of the economic growth of Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

The planning application has been reported to the City Council's Area Committee, Wythenshawe Area Committee and the main Planning and Highways Committee. The respective committee reports and associated minutes are within the documentation attached to this letter, but by way of summary, the Wythenshawe Area Committee and Planning and Highways Committee recommended approval of the proposal subject to the imposition of appropriate conditions.

The application before you, is a departure from the adopted development plan, but this is solely due to development being located within the Green Belt. It has been fully considered by the Council's scheme of delegation for the consideration of planning applications and the Council has determined not to refuse planning permission. This conclusion is considered to be fully justified by the papers provided and the authority would respectfully ask that the decision is not called in and that the delivery of this much needed scheme to ease congestion and support economic growth is passed back to the Authority to determine.

I would therefore be grateful if you could consider the proposal as required by the Direction.

Please find enclosed the following information for your consideration:

1. A copy of the application form only, copies of the application documentation have already been provided by SMBC.
2. A copy of one of the site notices;
3. A copy of any representations from local residents, businesses and interest groups made to the Council in respect of the application;

4. A copy of the committee reports and associated minutes from the Wythenshawe Area Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee.
6. Copies of statements/comments/views from Consultees, other Government departments;
7. Letter of support from Mike Kane MP

I would be grateful if you could confirm as soon as possible whether you are able to determine whether or not to call in the application within the 21 day notice period.

Should you wish to discuss the submission the Case Officer dealing with the application is David Lawless who can be contacted on 0161 234 4543. Please do not hesitate to contact the Authority if we can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Julie Roscoe

Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing