

## Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Public Inquiry

### Inspector's Note

As you are aware the above Inquiry is due to open on 21 September 2021. Although some objections have been withdrawn, there are a considerable number of outstanding objections. The Programme Officer and I are trying to organise the Inquiry in order that it can run efficiently and in a manner that is fair to all parties.

Following the PIM I set out a timetable for the submission of documents and other information I require. I note that a number of objectors have not submitted a proof of evidence and I am content for parties to rely on the information they originally submitted. Significant new evidence should not be introduced at the Inquiry since neither other parties or myself will have had an opportunity to consider the information. Should this arise it may be necessary to adjourn the Inquiry in the interests of fairness. Therefore, if you intend to submit a proof of evidence and have not already done so, please contact the Programme Officer ***as a matter of urgency*** to advise the likely date for submission together with any documents you require to be added to the Core Documents list.

By **10 September** please advise the Programme Officer if you will be appearing at the Inquiry, the number of witnesses you intend to call and the time you will require to present your case and question the Council's witnesses. Also advise him if there is any constraint on your availability. It is important that this information is submitted in order that the timetable for the Inquiry can be prepared and that participants have an indication of when they need to be available. I would however, like to stress that the timetable may need to be modified as we progress, with some matters taking longer than anticipated and others less time, but it will nonetheless provide a running order, an approximate indication of the time required, and which sessions will be a round table discussion and which will proceed on the basis of a formal presentation of evidence.

If you do not intend to appear at the Inquiry and wish to rely on your written objection please advise the Programme Officer accordingly.

The Council's proofs of evidence have been published on the inquiry website <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/north-and-east-melton-mowbray-distributor-road-scheme/public-inquiry>. As set out in my previous timetable, should you have any questions of clarification in relation to the Council's evidence, it would be helpful if these are submitted by **15 September**.

As well as viewing the overall route of the scheme, it is probable that I will need to visit individual properties referred to by Objectors. If there are any constraints on visiting these properties, or any specific health and safety

concerns, please advise the Programme Officer accordingly. Due to the current pandemic it is intended that the visits will be unaccompanied where possible, and therefore someone will need to be available to provide access to any privately owned land. If there are any additional sites or viewpoints you wish me to take account of please let the Programme Officer know.

I would also remind the parties that documents should be made available as pdfs rather than webpages, this is because the content of webpages can change overtime and it needs to be unequivocal as to the evidence considered by the Inquiry.

*Lesley Coffey*

PLANNING INSPECTOR

7 September 2021