

NORTH AND EAST MELTON MOWBRAY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

Notes for the Public Inquiry:
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1. Information Requested by the Inspector

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 A request was made to confirm if Leicestershire County Council or Melton Borough Council have adopted policy on net zero carbon emissions. The following summarises the current position at each authority and the impact of adopted policy on the Scheme.

1.2 Leicestershire County Council

1.2.1 In 2017 Leicester County Council (LCC) signed up to the UK100 Coalition, a group of authorities in the UK taking a lead on climate change and net zero. On the back of this, in 2020, LCC declared a climate emergency and made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 from their own operations and to achieve carbon neutrality for Leicestershire by 2050 or before.

1.2.2 In May 2020 LCC updated their Environment Strategy¹ to reflect this commitment (page 9) and included the following targets for carbon reduction (page 23):

- 64% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from LCC operations by 2025 compared to 2016-17 baseline levels
- 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (net carbon neutral) from LCC operations by 2030
- 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (net carbon neutral) for Leicestershire by 2050 compared to 2016-17 baseline levels.

1.2.3 The maintenance and operation the Scheme will be undertaken by LCC in alignment with the targets presented in this Strategy.

1.2.4 It should be noted that the commitments made by the Department for Transport in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP)² published in June 2021 will have a significant contribution on the County achieving a countywide 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In 2019, 27% of total UK emissions were from transportation³. The

¹Environment Strategy 2018 – 2030: delivering a better future (updated May 2020)

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/7/13/Environment-Strategy-2018-2030-delivering-a-better-future.pdf>

²Transport Decarbonisation Strategy: Decarbonising Transport, A better greener Britain (2021).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009448/decarbonising-transport-a-better-greener-britain.pdf

³BEIS 2019 GHG Figures

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957887/2019_Final_greenhouse_gas_emissions_statistical_release.pdf

TDP presents commitments and targets for the UK to achieve net zero emissions from transportation by 2050.

1.3 Melton Borough Council

1.3.1 Melton Borough Council have not made any commitments to achieve net zero. The Council's Corporate Strategy⁴ sets a commitment to ensure council operations are carbon neutral by 2030 and promote sustainability within the borough. The maintenance and operation of the Scheme does not fall under the scope of Melton Borough's responsibility and will therefore not have any impact on the conclusion to the GHG assessment presented in the Environmental Statement.

1.4 Summary

1.4.1 LCC have set commitments to be carbon neutral for council operations by 2030 and carbon neutral countywide by 2050. Once built the Scheme will be maintained and operated by LCC in line with targets presented in the Strategy. The commitments in the LCC Environmental Strategy will not impact the conclusion of the GHG gas impact assessment presented in Chapter 12 of the Environmental Statement.

1.4.2 Road user emissions are anticipated to decrease in line with the emissions reduction forecast presented in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan i.e. to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This will facilitate LCC reducing emissions from transportation, in turn allowing them to meet their wider 100% countywide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (net carbon neutral) by 2050.

1.4.3 Melton Borough Council have set targets for their own operations to be carbon neutral by 2030. No commitments have been made however to be carbon neutral or net zero. Melton Borough will have no role in the operation and maintenance of the Scheme therefore their carbon targets will have no bearing on the conclusion of the Environmental Statement.

1.4.4 To conclude, the information presented in this note will have no direct effect on the Scheme or the information provided in the Proof of Evidence on Climate Change (LCC 12) describing the implications of the Scheme with regard to climate change.

⁴ Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 <https://www.melton.gov.uk/media/gq0lpilx/melton-borough-council-corporate-strategy-2020-to-2024.pdf>

