

NOTE TO WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN EIP INSPECTORS

WESTERN LINK – LAND ACQUISITION

06/10/22

With regard to the request regarding progress made on land acquisition required for the delivery of the Warrington Western Link good progress has been made with this in accordance with the approvals secured on the Warrington Western Link from the council's Executive Board in November 2017 and Cabinet in July 2019. These approvals included the formal adoption of the preferred route for the scheme and authorised officers to progress negotiations with affected 'on line' property and to respond to Statutory Blight claims when received. In addition an 'in principle' approval was given to use compulsory purchase powers in advance of the formal authority to make a compulsory purchase order.

Prior to, and following on from the Department for Transport's decision in April 2019 to award the scheme Programme Entry, the Council has been liaising with a significant number of affected land owners including United Utilities, Network Rail and Solvay Interlox regarding the acquisition on the necessary land and rights to deliver the scheme. Working alongside appointed Land Agents and Scheme Designers, the Council has been able to update affected parties at regular and appropriate intervals as and when required. Discussions will continue as the scheme develops.

As a result of the Council's decision to declare a preferred route in November 2017 a number of statutory blight claims have been received by the Council. The Council has since acquired seven residential properties as a consequence of these claims and is in active dialogue with a number of other claimants.

It has been determined that a confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order is highly likely to be necessary to acquire the required land and rights to deliver the scheme. This has been encompassed within the overall scheme programme in terms of the likely need for a public inquiry and to allow time for the outcome of this to be confirmed.