

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**Business and Environmental Services**

**12 November 2021**

**A64 National Highways Consultation Response**

**Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Business Environmental Services (BES) in consultation with the BES Executive Member for Access to provide a response to the National Highways (NH) A64 consultation.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The A64, namely the section of single carriageway between Hopgrove Roundabout and Barton Le Willows, continues to be a significant barrier to investment, productivity and economic growth in the region.
- 2.2 The A64 Growth Partnership was set up to be the voice of businesses in the region and is supported by the local councils, including NYCC, Ryedale District Council and Scarborough Borough Council, and also the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). They also have the support of Transport for the North, who most recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport in September 2019 reiterating their strong endorsement and justification for improvements along the A64 between York and Scarborough. Local MP's, including Kevin Hollinrake MP, have been actively campaigning in support of the scheme for a number of years. The partnership aims to highlight the issues for businesses and local communities caused by the inadequate nature of the A64 east of York where the trunk road is mostly single carriageway of variable standard. The partnership aims to ensure the allocation of Road Investment Strategy funding to deliver the necessary improvements.
- 2.3 National Highways have now selected this scheme as one of over 30 that they are considering around the country, as part of their 'pipeline of schemes'. The pipeline schemes were announced in NH 2020-25 Delivery Plan, which includes items that will be considered for potential construction beyond 2025, but currently there is no commitment from government to develop this scheme beyond the current stage.
- 2.4 To help develop the plans National Highways are seeking views on the A64 between Hopgrove Junction and Barton-le-Willows, they are asking for views on how changes to the road may improve livelihoods and quality of life, and help to address concerns about congestion, environmental issues, and safety. The main aim of this consultation is to gather information to help NH develop a list of options and build the case for improvements to the road.
- 2.5 Officers have therefore drafted a response for the consultation, which is due for submission by 21 November 2021.

### **3.0 Consultation Response**

3.1 A full copy of the consultation response is attached as **Appendix A**, the key points of which are highlighted below.

#### **3.2 Concerns about the route**

We propose to respond that the major concerns about the road include air quality, congestion, impact on businesses, negative experiences of using the road, noise, safety and speed and that we would like to see all of the aforementioned issues addressed.

3.3 We intend to add that as Local Highway Authority we are impacted by problems on the road because the A64 provides a key strategic link for us, with traffic flows at twice the recommendation for this category of road. This encourages users to choose unsuitable alternative routes. Journey times are significantly affected, particularly at weekends /holidays, due to this section of route being single carriageway causing increased congestion and a number of accidents, therefore, we also noted we are concerned about user safety. The problems on the route have a detrimental effect on the regional economy, something heavily evidenced by the Growth Partnership. We are concerned about accidents occurring and the unattractiveness of active modes due to the poor quality of active travel facilities adjacent to the A64 especially missing links/ connections with LHA roads and Public Rights of Way.

3.4 Although there is no opportunity to add this information to the online response the scheme could potentially affect sites designated as being of both European and national nature conservation importance. There are also potential impacts on the viability of populations of protected species such as Otter and Badger. There have been initial meetings jointly with the Ecologist at City of York Council and the consultants working on behalf of National Highways, which North Yorkshire County Council has attended where National Highways have identified the key ecological receptors and have a suite of ecological surveys on going or planned in order to inform the assessment process.

3.5 Please note there is a character limit associated with some of the questions. It is planned that we share our full response (as above) via the email address provided on the website.

#### **3.6 Impact of improvements on quality of life or livelihood**

We intend to respond that if improvements are made users will be safer and less likely to use alternative unsuitable routes, which increases risk. Increased journey time reliability through reduced congestion will support the local economy specifically for businesses and tourism. The health (through active travel opportunities and air quality improvements) of the local population could also be improved.

### **4.0 Equalities**

4.1 There are no equalities issues arising from this report. See **Appendix B**.

### **5.0 Finance**

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with responding to the consultation apart from officer time. There could be financial implications in the future if this scheme is included in the 'pipeline of schemes'. Any financial implications would be reported at the appropriate time

## **6.0 Legal**

6.1 Consideration has been given to any legal implications in submitting a consultation response and none appear to arise at this stage.

## **7.0 Climate Change**

7.1 A climate change impact assessment has been carried out. Please see **Appendix C**.

## **8.0 Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Director, Business Environmental Services in consultation with the BES Executive Member for Access approves the response to the consultation to be submitted to National Highways by 21 November 2021 as detailed in Section 3 and Appendix A.

BARRIE MASON  
Assistant Director - Highways & Transportation

Author: Keisha Moore

Background documents: None

## A64 National Highways Consultation Questions

1. Thinking about the A64 between Hopgrove junction and Barton-le-Willows, how does it make you feel?

Very happy  
 Happy  
 Neutral  
 Unhappy  
 Very unhappy

2. What are your concerns about the road?  
 (click as many options as needed)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Air quality</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Congestion</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ecology and wildlife</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Impact on business</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Experience of using the road, e.g. road surface</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Noise</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Safety</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Speed</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	No concerns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

3. How are you impacted by the problems on the road? 76 word limit (Optional)

*As LHA the A64 is a key strategic link, with AADT at twice the recommendation for single carriageway roads. Journey times are significantly affected, particularly at weekends /holidays. We are concerned about user safety. It has a detrimental effect on the regional economy, something heavily evidenced by local businesses and stakeholders. We are concerned about safety issues occurring due to the quality of active travel facilities adjacent to the A64 especially missing links/ connections with LHA roads & PROW.*

4. How supportive are you of improvements to tackle the problems on this road?

Very supportive  
 Supportive  
 Neutral  
 Unsupportive  
 Very unsupportive

5. Which issues would you like to see addressed to improve the road?  
 (click as many options as needed)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congestion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecology and wildlife
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experience of using the road, e.g. road surface
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Speed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impact on business
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

6. How would an improved road impact your quality of life or livelihood?(Optional)

*Users will be safer and less likely to use alternative unsuitable routes, which increases risk. Increased journey time reliability through reduced congestion will support the local economy specifically for businesses and tourism. The health (through active travel opportunities and air quality improvements) of the general population could be improved.*

7. What type of road user are you?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General road user (leisure or commuting)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial road user
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cyclist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horse rider
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian

8. What age group do you belong to?(Optional)

- 16 and under
- 17-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

9. We'd like to understand how far you live from the A64. Can you provide your

Postcode?(Optional)

*DL7 8AE*

10. We may ask you for more information about your responses. Can you provide a

contact email?(Optional)

*Keisha.moore@northyorks.gov.uk*



I consent to National Highways and partners processing my personal data for the purpose of feedback.

Data protection policy - National Highways is fully committed to compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). We collect and handle a variety of personal data so that we can deliver services to our customers and anyone using England's motorways and major A roads. For our full GDPR policy please visit: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/about-us/privacy-notice/>

<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b> (As of October 2015 this form replaces 'Record of decision not to carry out an EIA')			
<b>This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.</b>			
<b>Directorate</b>	Business and Environmental Services		
<b>Service area</b>	Highways and Transportation		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Response to the consultation to be submitted to National Highways regarding improving the A64 between Hopgrove Roundabout, York and Barton Le Willows.		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Keisha Moore		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Respond to the consultation to be submitted to National Highways regarding improving the A64 between Hopgrove Roundabout, York and Barton Le Willows.		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	To ensure the allocation of Road Investment Strategy funding from National Highways to deliver the necessary improvements		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.</b>	No		
<b>Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics?</b> As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul> <b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
<b>Protected characteristic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know/No info available</b>
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex (Gender)		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
<b>NYCC additional characteristic</b>			
People in rural areas		✓	

People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	Unknown at this stage, National Highways are gathering information to inform options.		
<b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?</b> (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). <b>Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics?</b> Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
<b>Reason for decision</b>	This is a response to a high level National Highways consultation and has no impact on people with protected characteristics.		
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	<i>Barrie Mason</i>		
<b>Date</b>	03/11/21		





## Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:**

Planning Permission  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk) for advice.

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>A64 National Highways Consultation Response</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	<b>To provide Members with outline details of the A64 National Highways Consultation response proposed to be submitted by the County Council.</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>BES</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Highways and Transportation</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Keisha Moore</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	
<b>Date impact assessment started</b>	<b>25/10/2021</b>

**Options appraisal**

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

No

**What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?**

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

None, no funding is being requested as a result of this report.

How will this proposal impact on the environment?  N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.		Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where	No impact (Place a X in the box below where	Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where	Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?  Where possible/relevant please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.	Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.
Minimise <b>greenhouse gas emissions</b> e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.	Emissions from travel		X				
	Emissions from construction		X				
	Emissions from running of buildings		X				
	Other		X				
Minimise <b>waste</b> : Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic		X					
Reduce <b>water</b> consumption		X					
Minimise <b>pollution</b> (including air, land, water, light and noise)		X					

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure <b>resilience</b> to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>				
<p>Enhance <b>conservation</b> and wildlife</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>				
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of <b>North Yorkshire's landscape</b></p>		<p><b>X</b></p>				
<p>Other (please state below)</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>				

**Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal?** If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

N/A

**Summary** Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

This consultation seeks views on an existing situation. The outcomes of the study are aimed at supporting improvements to the highway.

#### Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Keisha Moore</b>
<b>Job title</b>	<b>Transport Planning Officer</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Highways and Transport</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>BES</b>
<b>Signature</b>	<b>K Moore</b>
<b>Completion date</b>	<b>25/10/2021</b>

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):** Barrie Mason

**Date:** 03/11/21