

Kirklees Council
Via E-mail
2 January 2019

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2018/91661

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR UP TO 74 DWELLINGS WITH MEANS OF ACCESS TO, BUT NOT WITHIN, THE SITE

Thank you for consulting with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Combined Authority) on this application.

The site is not identified as or located in a Strategic Priority Area as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and therefore these comment are related to transport matters only.

The application proposes the infill of a section of the former railway cutting on the Spen Valley Ringway. These comments should be considered in the context of the potential for the former railway alignment to be brought back into use for transport and recreation purposes.

The Combined Authority and its partner councils including Kirklees Council, are currently developing local and strategic connectivity strategy, including proposals for Mass Transit and a West Yorkshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), building on individual LCWIPs being developed by Kirklees.

These plans aim to identify priority corridors of movement and future investment required to deliver the connectivity improvements required for communities across the region. The report endorsed by West Yorkshire Transport Committee on 9 November 2018 set out that transforming local connectivity as highlighted in the map (See “Figure 2.3: 2033 Emerging City Region Transit Network with HS2”) . As highlighted in the report, detailed route alignments have yet to be undertaken.

<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=730&Ver=4>

The proposed infill of the Spen Valley Ringway may preclude or limit future opportunities to utilise the former railway alignments to provide future connectivity improvements between communities as set out in the Transport Committee report that I refer to. However, the Combined Authority currently don't have an adopted plan for alignment identified. Therefore, in this instance, we request that this point should be noted but consider that we have

not sufficiently advanced in this work to consider that objection to the development be appropriate on the bases of this emerging strategy.

The next stages of connectivity strategy work are to open a conversation around the proposals and also to consider in partnership with the council the design options to achieve the objectives of the strategy.

We note that the layout plans in the Transport Statement shows a potential route to link the Spen Valley Ringway though the site. The plans show a 'Potential route for links to the Urban Greenway, to be provided by others and in agreement with the landowner'. We suggest that the council should seek an assurance through a planning condition or obligation that this aspect of the scheme will be implemented to ensure that a continuous link is retained should the Spen Valley Ringway be brought back into use for recreational purposes.

I trust these comments will be useful in your appraisal of the application. If you require more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,
