

Development Control Committee
Meeting to be held on 16th July 2015

Electoral Division affected:
Morecambe North

Lancaster City: Application number. DCO HEYSHAM M6 05
The Lancashire County Council Torrisholme to the M6 Link (A683 completion of Heysham to M6 link road) Order 2013 schedule 2 - Amendments to the supporting structures for the advance direction signing of the remodelled northbound junction 34 diverge under requirement 4(2) of the Development Consent Order. Heysham to M6 link road, Lancaster.

Contact for further information:
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Executive Summary

Application - The Lancashire County Council Torrisholme to the M6 Link (A683 completion of Heysham to M6 link road) Order 2013 schedule 2 - Amendments to the supporting structures for the advance direction signing of the remodelled northbound junction 34 diverge under requirement 4(2) of the Development Consent Order. Heysham to M6 link road, Lancaster.

Recommendation – Summary

That the details of amended motorway signage as set out in application ref Heysham DCO M6 05 be approved.

Applicant's Proposal

The Development Consent Order authorising the construction of the Heysham to M6 Link Road provides for the construction of various signage gantries over the M6 on the northbound carriageway on the approach to the new junction 34 at Lancaster.

It is now proposed to replace the gantries with verge mounted signage located at the 1 mile, ½ mile and exit points to junction 34.

Description and Location of Site

The application relates to the route of the Heysham to M6 Link Road to the north and west of Lancaster which is currently under construction. The application currently under consideration relates to that part of the route running adjacent to the western side of the M6 south of junction 34 where a new slip road is being constructed as part of the remodelled junction 34.

Background

History

A Development Consent Order for the construction of the Heysham to M6 Link was made by the Secretary of State in March 2013.

Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework: Paragraphs 56 – 66 and 109 – 118 of the NPPF are relevant in relation to the need for good design and the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

Lancaster City Local Plan

Policy DM35 Key Design Principles

Consultations

Lancaster City Council: No observations received.

Highways England: No objection

Advice

A Development Consent Order for the completion of the Heysham to M6 Link was made by the Secretary of State in March 2013. The development provides for the redesign of junction 34 of the M6 involving new sliproads in both directions.

Requirement 4(2) of the Development Consent Order provides that replacement general arrangement drawings and landscaping plans may be approved in writing by the relevant planning authority.

The signage to the northbound carriageway on the M6 on the approach to the junction was to have been mounted on steel gantries spanning the northbound carriageway of the motorway located at the 1 mile, ½ mile and at the diverge point onto the junction 34 sliproad.

The proposal is to replace these overhead gantries with signage structures extending over the northbound carriageway which would be supported on posts mounted in the verge adjacent to the hard shoulder. The signage structures would measure approximately 14 metres by 5 metres, would be mounted approximately 6 metres above road level and would carry blue / white directional signs measuring approximately 6 metres by 6.5 metres

Highways England have certain design requirements for signage to ensure safety on the motorway network. The proposed signage would meet Highways England standards but would have an overall height that would be lower than the previously approved gantries therefore reducing the visual impact of the signage in the landscape. The signage would not be illuminated. The proposed amendment to the

signage is therefore acceptable in terms of visual amenity and complies with policy DM35 of the Lancaster Local Plan.

In view of the scale, location and nature of the development, it is considered that no Convention Rights set out in the Human Rights Act 1998 would be affected.

Recommendation

That the details of amended motorway signage as set out in application ref Heysham DCO M6 05 be approved.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Ext
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DCO Heysham M6 05		
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18th May 2015		
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Reason for Inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

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