

Our ref: AC/DW

Your ref: NATTRAN/SE/HAO/286

Date: 22 April 2024

Secretary of State for Transport
National Transport Casework Team
Department for Transport
Tyneside House
Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7AR

By Email Only to nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

The Oxfordshire County Council (Didcot Garden Town Highways Infrastructure – A4130 Improvement (Milton Gate to Collett Roundabout), A4197 Didcot to Culham Link Road, and A415 Clifton Hampden Bypass) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022 (“the CPO”)

The Oxfordshire County Council (Didcot Garden Town Highways Infrastructure – A4130 Improvement (Milton Gate to Collett Roundabout), A4197 Didcot to Culham Link Road, and A415 Clifton Hampden Bypass) Side Roads Order 2022 (“the Side Roads Order”)

As you are aware, we act on behalf Commercial Estates Group Limited and CEG Land Promotions II Limited (“together referred to as **CEG**”) in relation to the above CPO and the Side Roads Order (together referred to as “**the Orders**”). CEG is a statutory objector (OBJ/25) to the Orders having submitted objections by way of written letter dated 21 March 2024, with its case being supplemented during the inquiry process by a Statement of Case and proofs of evidence.

It is understood from the latest draft inquiry programme (dated 18 April 2024) that the inquiry in respect of the Orders is expected to open on 24 April 2024. As has been discussed in the evidence previously submitted by CEG and Oxfordshire County Council (“**the County Council**”), it is considered that CEG’s objections to the Orders can be adequately addressed through the completion of a private agreement between the relevant parties.


We write to inform the Inspector that Heads of Terms for such an agreement have now been agreed with the County Council, and negotiations on the agreement are expected to proceed expeditiously. CEG therefore wishes to withdraw its objections to the Orders.

LEDA Properties Limited (OBJ/26) has previously adopted and endorsed CEG’s evidence and objections to the Orders. The withdrawal of CEG’s objections therefore also narrows the extent

of that party's objections, and such objections may also be able to be withdrawn shortly.

Please contact us if the Secretary of State requires any further information at this time. This letter has been copied to the County Council's representatives, as well the inquiry Programme Officer and the case officer responsible for matters at the Planning Inspectorate. It has also been copied to those persons acting for LEDA Properties Limited for information.

Yours faithfully



Walton & Co

CC

Joanna Vincent – Inquiry Programme Officer (joanna.vincent@gateleyhamer.com)

Sarah Tudor – Planning Inspectorate (sarah.tudor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Claire James and Debbie Reynolds – TLT (for the County Council) (claire.james@tlt.com and debbie.reynolds@tlt.com)

Nick Hardcastle – LEDA Properties Limited (nick@ledaproperties.co.uk)