

By email to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

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> Our case ID: 300055967 Your ref: 01703 08 February 2022

Dear

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 North Lanarkshire Council - East Airdrie Link Road Scheme SEA Scoping Report

Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 10 January 2022 about the above SEA scoping report. We have reviewed this in our role as a Consultation Authority under the terms of the above Act. This letter contains our views on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

Scope and level of detail

It is our understanding that the East Airdrie Link Road (EALR) project is intended to provide the transport links needed to unlock commercial and housing development across the North Lanarkshire council area. We note from the SEA Scoping Report that it is proposed to undertake an environmental assessment of the different Stage 2 route options currently under consideration for the EALR and we are broadly content with this.

We note that the route options under consideration may potentially impact on heritage assets and their settings, and therefore welcome that the cultural heritage topic area will be scoped into the environmental assessment. In line with this, we are content that relevant policy for the historic environment has been identified within the analysis of plans, policies and strategies included at Appendix B, and that appropriate environmental requirements for the cultural heritage topic area have been identified within table 3-2.

We understand that the Stage 2 route options will be assessed against an objective to 'protect and enhance the significance of the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings' and consider this to be appropriate. We are also broadly content with the supporting assessment questions included at Tables 5-19 and 6-2, however would

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recommend that an additional question is included here to ensure the conservation of undesignated archaeological sites and their settings.

We confirm that we are content with the approach set out in the SEA Scoping Report and are satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment.

Consultation period for the Environmental Report

We understand from Chapter 7 (Next Steps) of the SEA scoping report that it is proposed to undertake consultation on a draft Environmental Report for the EALR in April 2022 for a period of six weeks. We confirm we are content with this. Please note that, for administrative purposes, we consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Gateway.

We also recommend, however, that an opportunity is provided to offer comments on the Stage 2 route options directly. We therefore suggest that an additional consultation paper is prepared detailing the route options under consideration and that comments should be invited on this at the same time as the draft Environmental Report.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is who can be contacted by phone on or by email on

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland