

An air quality assessment has been prepared by Air Quality Consultants Ltd to support the planning application (Ref FUL/2018/2651) for the *'Redevelopment of the existing car park to provide a new student accommodation building and associated amenities, a new multi-storey car park, landscaping enhancements, new pedestrian crossing and other public realm improvements.'*

Background

Since the air quality assessment was prepared the design of the scheme has changed to take account of comments made by Coventry City Council and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) during the application process. The original design did not re-provide parking for Jaguar Land Rover employees as it was understood the applicant would exercise their break-clause in the parking arrangement with JLR. The design of the scheme has now been reviewed to accommodate parking for JLR within the proposed multi-storey car park (MSCP) should the parking agreement between the applicant and JLR continue. The impact of this change on air quality has therefore been described and reassessed within this technical note.

The original impact assessment of road traffic generated by the development on air quality was based on a reduction in the number of vehicle movements, due to a reduction in car parking spaces from 494 spaces to 402 spaces. The proposed development, with additional spaces provided for JLR (a total of 489 spaces) still results in an overall net decrease in the number of car parking spaces proposed however there is likely to be an increase in the number of vehicle movements as a result of the new scheme. The assessment of the impact of development generated road traffic taking into account the proposed changes to scheme are described below.

Impact Assessment

The site currently comprises two car parks; one for Cannon Park Shopping Centre providing 242 spaces and the second is employee parking for JLR providing 252 spaces (a total of 494 spaces). The MSCP within the proposed development will re-provide 422 public and employee parking spaces for the shopping centre and JLR employees. 67 additional surface level parking spaces will be provided within the student accommodation. A total of 489 spaces are proposed).

The transport consultants have advised that despite a reduction of 72 car parking spaces within the MSCP there will be no change in vehicle movements associated with the MSCP. The vehicle movements associated with the student accommodation parking (67 spaces) therefore now represent an increase in vehicle movements.

The student accommodation comprises 808 units and the transport consultants for the project, WYG, have advised this could generate an additional 242 vehicle movements per day.

To assess the impact of the increase in vehicle movements on air quality, this trip generation has been compared to the screening criteria set out in the EPUK/IAQM guidance. This guidance recommends that a detailed assessment of potential air quality impacts would be required where a development will "cause a significant change in Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) traffic flows on local roads with relevant receptors".

The proposed development is located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and the screening criteria for locations inside an AQMA, is a change of “*more than 100 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)*” on any one road. However the IAQM guidance clearly states that “*where whole authority AQMAs are present and it is known that the affected roads have concentrations below 90% of the objective, the less stringent criteria are likely to be more appropriate.*” The baseline concentrations at the site and the surrounding area are judged to be below 90% of the objective, based on the monitoring results presented in Table 2 and Table 3 and paragraph 6.9 to 6.12 of the air quality assessment.

The increase in vehicle movements of 242 AADT would be below the "less stringent criteria" of 500 AADT and therefore a more detailed assessment of traffic movements on air quality is not necessary and the impacts of development generated traffic can be considered to be insignificant. Furthermore in reality there could be a reduction in vehicle movements as a result of the development should JLR no longer park on-site.

Additionally in response to comments received from Coventry City Council the MSCP will provide electric vehicles charging points at the quantity required by the West Midlands Low Emissions Town and Cities Programme Good Practice Air Quality Planning Guidance. This guidance requires electric vehicle charging provision for 10% of parking spaces. This may be phased with 5% active provision and a further 5% passive provision. The MSCP has 422 car parking spaces and therefore 21 electric vehicle spaces will be furnished with electric vehicle charging points, with cabling laid for a further 21 spaces to serve future charging needs.

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