EXAMINATION INTO THE SITE ALLOCATION AND POLICIES DPD

Note prepared by Lincolnshire County Council on the following matter:

Consultation with Lincolnshire County Council on Highway Impacts of Potential Development Sites

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in their role as the local highway authority have worked closely with South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) on the assessment of potential development sites. It should be noted that Highways Agency are the highway authority for the A1 and the A52 west of Grantham as these are part of the national trunk road network.

LCC were provided with a list of all of the potential sites so that they could provide comments on the likely highway impacts of the development. The main impacts assessed were highway safety and capacity; all of the sites were visited, unless officers had very recent knowledge of a particular site. The comments provided can be divided into three broad headings:-

- Site particularly difficult in highway terms with any possible mitigation measures likely to be unachievable, either due to cost or the need for land outside of the development site.

- Some highway concerns but likely to be overcome by the implementation of mitigation measures that would be achievable.

- No or very minor highway concerns.

It should be noted that the assessments were carried out with only outline information on the size and density of the development. There was sometimes no indication where access to the site would be made from the existing highway network.

Since the time the assessments were carried out some of the developments have come forward with more detailed information as part of the pre-application discussions. This has provided more detailed information on traffic generation, location of access and proposed mitigation measures. This has allowed a more thorough assessment to be made on highway matters.

It is worth pointing out that the initial assessment provided the highway authorities views on the suitability of development sites. Once a planning application has been submitted the highway authority is a statutory consultee and will provide comments to the planning authority, normally the district council. The highway authority cannot veto a proposal but can recommend that an application be refused. However the new National Planning Policy Framework in para 32 states: “Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of the development are severe”