

ASHFORD LOCAL PLAN TO 2030 - EXAMINATION

POUND LANE LINK ROAD – A POSITION STATEMENT

On day 1 of the Examination, the Inspectors asked the Borough Council to prepare a Position statement or Statement of Common Ground in respect of the Pound Lane Link Road proposal and whether it is now required as part of a package of infrastructure improvements that will mitigate traffic flows arising from new allocations in the Local Plan.

The following represents the current position:-

1. Transport modelling work on behalf of the site promoters of sites S3, S4 and S5 and discussion with KCC Highways & Transportation remains on-going.
2. The modelling undertaken demonstrates that reliance can be placed on the Ashford Road corridor through a series of junction improvements to accommodate a majority of traffic generated from the west and east sides of the corridor.
3. However, so far it has not been possible to demonstrate to KCC Highways & Transportation's satisfaction, that all additional trips generated on the Ashford Road corridor can be satisfactorily accommodated. Hence, as it currently stands, the Pound Lane Link Road may still be needed to accommodate some trips from new development.
4. Due to the position reached, the Council considers that a more appropriate policy position for site S3 (Court Lodge) would be to amend policy S3 to delete the specific reference to the need for a developer contribution to the delivery Pound Lane Link Road (with consequential amendments to the supporting text to policies S3 and TRA1) and to rely on the requirements of policy TRA8 and IMP1 where necessary. This will enable the Council to decide whether contributions are necessary (and if so, to what level) from proposed developments to the Pound Lane Link Road and/or the other highway improvement measures eventually identified through TAs and agreed with KCC Highways & Transportation.
5. As previously stated, the Council firmly believes the specific reference to the Pound Lane Link Road in policy TRA1 should remain in any event but references to it as 'critical' in supporting text should be amended to refer to 'essential' in line with its status in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.