

## 17 Summary and Conclusions

- 17.1.1 The EIA process that is documented in this EIAR has identified impacts arising from the proposed scheme. These impacts were assessed whether or not they are likely to result in significant effects. Where significant effects have been predicted, measures to avoid or mitigate these effects have been included, so that where possible they are no longer significant.
- 17.1.2 The design of the scheme includes SuDS to minimise impacts on water quality, provision of a new access track for NMUs connecting Frain Drive to the grade separated junction at the A937 and a new footpath/cycle route along the grade separated junction connecting the north and south of the A937.
- 17.1.3 With adherence to a CEMP and with implementation of the mitigation laid out in the EIAR, most construction effects from the scheme will generally not be significant. Most will be temporary and/or of short duration.
- 17.1.4 However, some significant construction effects will be experienced by a number of receptors. The landscape fabric and landscape at the development site will experience a major adverse impact as a result of the new grade separated junction, SuDS ponds and slip roads as well as impacts from construction machinery and vegetation removal. Although temporary, mitigation through retention of existing vegetation where possible, will still result in a moderately significant effect on the landscape.
- 17.1.5 Visual impacts from construction machinery and vegetation removal on residents at Gardenston Street and viewpoint 2 are minor in magnitude and of temporary duration. Retaining existing screening vegetation where possible will mitigate impacts but the significance of effect is moderate adverse.
- 17.1.6 There is a moderate risk to the health of construction workers from exposure to made ground during excavations, but with suitable measures in place to contain exposure and with appropriate PPE, the residual risk is reduced to low.
- 17.1.7 Residual operational effects will be experienced by receptors with respect to landscape, visual impacts, noise receptors, development land, agricultural land and good quality soils.
- 17.1.8 With the addition of a new grade separated junction, slip roads and SuDS ponds, the landscape at the development site will experience a major adverse impact. Although landscaping will be undertaken at the new junction and slip roads and around the SuDS ponds, nevertheless the introduction of new infrastructure will result in a moderate adverse significant effect even in Year 15, when replanting has matured.

- 17.1.9 Two visual receptors will be significantly affected by the new junction: properties at West Burnside and Gardenston Street and receptors associated with viewpoint 2, core path 3 and the minor road connecting the A937 to the A90. The properties at Gardenston Street will have a major adverse impact at Year 1, and minor adverse impact at Year 15. With mitigation planting and once it matures, the residual significance of effect at Year 1 is large adverse, reducing to moderate adverse in Year 15. The impact on viewpoint 2 is major adverse on Year 1 and moderate adverse at Year 15. With mitigation planting the residual significance of effect at Year 1 is very large adverse which reduces to large adverse in Year 15.
- 17.1.10 In the short term there will be moderate adverse impacts from increased noise levels at Laurencekirk Primary School, of moderate to large significance. In the long term, the noise changes at the school have a minor adverse impact of slight to moderate significance.
- 17.1.11 The scheme will result in the loss of good quality agricultural land, most of which will be from the landholding at Mains of Newton. The impact will be minor adverse, with a moderately adverse significance of effect.
- 17.1.12 There will be a moderate beneficial impact of moderate beneficial significance on development land as the scheme will result in improved access to Laurencekirk for new developments proposed at lands south of High Street, at Conveth Mains and Blackiemuir Avenue.
- 17.1.13 Residual operational effects on biodiversity, air quality, some visual receptors, noise receptors, landscape character types and the water environment are not significant. Beneficial effects will arise from using native species in the landscaping to improve local biodiversity. The provision of an additional access track will have a slight beneficial effect on NMUs.
- 17.1.14 Cumulative effects were assessed with proposed developments around Laurencekirk, which includes proposed housing at Blackiemuir Avenue, lands at Conveth Mains and lands south of High Street. Moderately significant adverse effects are predicted in combination with the scheme with respect to loss of high-quality agricultural land. Effects on water quality are assessed to be not significant as all the schemes will include new drainage, incorporating SuDS.
- 17.1.15 In summary, most of the effects from the scheme are not significant. There will be moderately significant effects on visual receptors at Gardenston Street and on agricultural land through loss of good quality soils. Beneficial effects are expected for vehicle travellers and NMUs through the provision of a new junction and pedestrian facilities.