

WCC Modelling Protocol

Advice Note 03.3 – Model Licencing Timing and Submission

Overview

1. WCC set out the requirements and expectations for model licencing within MUPAN01 and WCC also set out expectations around the reporting of scenarios within MUPAN02a.1 . The advice provided within this note is expected to be reviewed in conjunction with these notes.

Due Diligence

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the model scenarios provided under licence are appropriate both in terms of the base model (and associated calibration and validation parameters) and future year scenarios (and associated development and forecast assumptions).
3. WCC expects that the licensee will also undertake a review of the information pertaining to the model scenarios and assumptions to ensure that they are appropriate at the time that the model was released.

Validity

4. WCC recognises that the models are licenced for a period of 12 Months. However, WCC considers it reasonable to expect that outputs extracted from the models should be submitted within **6 Months** of the date of model issue.
5. Submission after this date does not invalidate the modelling work but it is pertinent for the licensee to confirm that no significant changes to the development assumptions contained within the modelling are required. Such changes may be necessary to ensure that the submission accounts for the latest planning assumptions and any key network interventions which may have been approved since the model was licensed. This risk is minimised if the modelling is completed within 6 months of the licence being granted.

Assumption Checking

6. Model assumptions, particularly concerning proximate developments or those of a sufficient size to influence the development assessment should be identified during scoping. At that point developments which aren't approved but may be in the intervening period can be identified and, through scoping, WCC can advise on how they should be treated in the assessment.
7. It should be recognised that the status of developments in the planning system may change after the initial scoping has been agreed or, more specifically, new developments may be introduced and/or approved that were omitted from the original assessment scope. There is a risk these changes will impact or influence the outcomes of an assessment.

8. For those reasons WCC advise that a 6-month window prior to the review of assumptions is appropriate. Following the expiration of the 6-month window, WCC advises that, prior to the outputs being submitted for review, the key assumptions within the model scenarios are checked and the validity confirmed.
9. Assumptions may not be valid if a development previously omitted from the model scenarios has been permitted, since access was granted, and is now classified as reasonably foreseeable (but will be missing from the model).
10. If a scheme has previously been omitted and/or assumed and there has been a material change to the status of that scheme then it may be prudent to include or remove as appropriate and prior to finalisation of the model runs.
11. Finally, updates to the Department of Transport's National Trip End Model, as well as more localised changes in development delivery trajectories will also impact on the core assumptions which are adopted within the future year model scenarios and may need to be considered if sufficient time has elapsed between the model being accessed and the outputs being submitted.

Revisiting Model Assumptions

12. WCC considers that it is not necessarily the case that the model results will be invalid after 6 months but it is essential that WCC's position is confirmed by the licensee prior to submission.
13. Should WCC consider that assumptions have changed such that they may alter conclusions drawn from the modelling then WCC will request that the licensee make use of the most recent model scenarios to ensure the key assumptions are accounted for within the development appraisal process.
14. Changes may be accounted for via sensitivity testing or via an update to all 'core' model scenarios depending upon the significance of the assumptions which are now being incorporated into the model scenarios.
15. Failure to complete these checks and account for any necessary changes advised by WCC may invalidate the modelling submission in full and prevent WCC from being able to comment on the associated model results and application on the basis that the modelling has not been confirmed to be valid.