

Meeting note

Project name	Bradwell B
File reference	EN010111
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	4 August 2020
Meeting with	Bradwell B Project Team
Venue	Microsoft Teams virtual meeting
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Non-statutory consultation

Non-statutory stage one consultation ended on 1 July 2020. This period had been extended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Applicant stated that it had received in excess of 2000 responses, including meaningful feedback which could usefully help shape the proposals going forward. The main issues identified included:

- Transport;
- Scale of development, on the main site in particular, and impact on Bradwell-on-Sea;
- Socio-economic issues, including jobs, tourism and impact on accommodation;
- and
- Visual impact

The Applicant is currently carefully reviewing the responses received and taking them into account as the project develops. For instance, to minimise impact on the local road network, the Applicant is assessing whether it is feasible to increase the amount of materials being transported to the site by sea, and is also considering further whether rail is a feasible alternative to road transport.

In addition to the extension of time to stage one, the applicant put in place various other measures to enable consultees to directly engage with technical experts, to replace this engagement that would have been provided by the exhibitions. This included telephone surgeries and on-line meetings. These changes to the non-statutory consultation had been discussed with the host authorities (Maldon District Council (MDC) and Essex County Council) and the applicant is currently analysing the responses, including their geographical spread to identify any underrepresented groups of the local communities. It was confirmed that the Consultation Report will include a section responding to concerns

that have been made about the consultation period being undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was confirmed that the Applicant was engaging with the Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group (BANNG) and is currently setting up a community forum with local groups, which will be chaired by an independent person.

The Applicant intends to communicate the changes to the project resulting from the consultation either via community forums or newsletters.

Project update

- Non-Statutory Consultation completed (1 July 2020);
- Survey work ongoing;
- EIA Scoping anticipated in Q3 2020;
- Statutory Consultation currently anticipated for Q3 2021, subject to analysis of feedback from Stage One consultation; and
- Application anticipated to be submitted in 2022, subject to ongoing consultation and project development

The Applicant confirmed that Chelmsford City Council (CCC) could become a host authority, depending on where any Associated Development sites are located. It was confirmed that CCC was consulted on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) prepared for the non-statutory consultation and that regular meetings with them were being planned. It was confirmed that the SoCC would be updated for the Statutory Consultation and that it would be drafted so it would be compliant with current advice regarding Covid-19 at the time of consultation.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had experienced some issues with land access on one of the survey sites, despite having a licence to access the land. This was due to some changes in land ownership.

The Applicant does not foresee the need to submit applications for rights of entry under section 53 of the PA2008 at this stage. If this changes, the Applicant will inform the Inspectorate at the earliest opportunity.

A planning application to MDC to carry out ground investigations on the site has recently been presented to the planning committee who are minded to refuse the planning application, contrary to the recommendation of the planning officer. MDC are currently taking further instructions before formally deciding on the application. The Applicant will consider its position relating to any appeal under s78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The Inspectorate confirmed that if the Applicant appealed the decision, the National Infrastructure directorate would not be responsible for the processing of the appeal. It was confirmed that these works would not be included in the Development Consent Order because they need to take place to inform the Environmental Statement, for instance in relation to groundwater monitoring, which will be submitted with the application.

The Applicant confirmed that a scoping request, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 ('the 2017 EIA Regulations') would be submitted to the Inspectorate in Q3 2020. The Applicant proposed submitting a digital version of the Scoping Report alongside their request. The Inspectorate asked for further information regarding the purpose, content and presentation of the digital version of the Scoping Report and questioned how the

digital version will differ from the original document. The Applicant stated that they will follow-up with further information after the meeting, but confirmed that the scoping report would be formally submitted as per the requirements of the regulations.

It was confirmed that the Inspectorate could chair Evidence Plan meetings if requested and if it would prove useful to making progress with the HRA. The next set of meetings are scheduled for September 2020.

Compulsory Acquisition and Special Category Land

The Applicant confirmed that it was not aware of any Special Category Land being affected by the project, however, this would be kept under review as the land take of the project became clearer following statutory consultation and ongoing discussions with land interests.

Follow up/Actions

- Further information regarding the digital version of the Scoping Report to be sent to be sent to the Inspectorate's Environmental Services Team.