

Rule 17 letter – Employment and Skills Plan

The Rule 17 letter follows the hearing and asks (for Local Authorities):

(a) The ExA asks all local authorities for their comments on the outline ESP [REP5-215], including whether they consider the applicant has adequately addressed the matter of supply chains within the document bearing in mind the number of other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects consented in the vicinity of the proposed development. If not, do they suggest any measures the applicant could consider, if any, to address any concerns raised.

And

(B) Views are sought from the applicant, as well as all local authorities, as to whether approval of the submitted document should be secured within the wording of the new requirement (requirement 15) in schedule 3 of the draft DCO [REP5-060] relating to the ESP.

In respect of part (a), the Council defers to Essex County Council (ECC), which is leading on employment, skills and supply chain matters on behalf of the Essex authorities. The Council has engaged with ECC throughout the examination on these matters and supports ECC taking the lead in responding to the ExA's questions.

In respect of part (b), the Council also defers to ECC's detailed response. However, the Council considers that any Employment and Skills Plan secured through the DCO should be subject to approval by the relevant County Council or Unitary Authority, as the authority with responsibility for strategic skills and employment functions.

As part of this we will be suggesting revised wording for Requirement 15 possibly along the lines as outlined below to reflect our request that the Plan needs to be subject to approval.

15. Employment and Skills Plan

(1) The authorised development may not commence until an employment and skills plan (which must be substantially in accordance with the outline employment and skills plan) has been submitted for approval to the relevant county planning authority and Thurrock Council.

(2) The authorised development must be carried out in general accordance with the approved any employment and skills plan submitted further to sub-paragraph (1) unless otherwise agreed with the relevant county planning authority and Thurrock Council no later than six months prior to the commencement of development