



Meeting note

Project name	A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvements
File reference	TR010044
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	17 September 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update prior to DCO submission
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (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.

Project update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that in June and July 2020 it conducted supplementary non-statutory consultation about changes to the scheme applied following consideration of the feedback received to statutory consultation in 2019. To in part offset the impact of COVID-19, the Applicant had undertaken its supplementary consultation using a virtual consultation platform, telephone consultation events and live web engagement events. Key themes that arose in responses included provision for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, construction impacts, noise assessment and mitigation, integration with East West Rail, landscaping and wider traffic impacts.

The relationship of the scheme with East West Rail (EW Rail) was discussed. The Applicant explained that it had engaged in collaborative framework meetings with EW Rail and was hoping to progress to a formal agreement which would be expressed in a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) or position statement.

The Applicant summarised engagement to date with statutory bodies and relevant non-government organisations. Engagement with the Environment Agency regarding flood modelling and risk assessments was ongoing and good progress



had been made during engagement with the Local Authorities regarding traffic modelling.

The Inspectorate asked about the preparation of SoCGs. The Applicant confirmed that it intended to develop SoCGs with relevant statutory bodies. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to seek to progress these as early in the process as possible in order that they may be finalised and submitted to inform the Examination as early as possible.

The Applicant explained that it had been considering the impact of the scheme on Brook Cottages, listed semi-detached farm labourers' cottages within the Red Line Boundary. The Local Authority and Historic England had advised the Applicant that further survey work would be required. The Applicant explained that it was facing challenges with accessing the property to carry out those surveys and sought advice from the Inspectorate on how to proceed. The Inspectorate summarised the process under s53 of the PA2008 and offered to follow-up with more detailed advice to the Applicant following the meeting.

Next steps

The Applicant confirmed that it intended to submit further draft documents for review during October 2020, including: the draft Development Consent Order, draft Explanatory Memorandum, draft Funding Statement and draft Works Plans.

The Applicant confirmed its expected application submission date to be in Q4 2020.