



Meeting note

File reference	TR040011
Status	Final
Author	Rachel Gaffney
Date	01/10/2015
Meeting with	North Somerset Council, Network Rail, CH2M and Bond Dickinson
Venue	Meeting Room in Bond Dickinson Offices
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate – Susannah Guest, Rachel Gaffney, David Price, Will Spencer and Tracey Smith The Developer: North Somerset Council – Colin Medus Network Rail – Andrew Holley and Colin Field CH2M – Andrew Linfoot and Carolyn Francis Bond Dickinson – Duncan Tilney, Richard Guyatt and Ian Meyer
Meeting objectives	Update on project progress to date
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate advised on its openness policy, explaining that any advice given would be recorded and placed on the National Infrastructure website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

An up-date was provided on the progress of the proposals through the GRIP (Governance for Railway Investment Projects) process. Site surveys are complete and draft designs should be submitted to Network Rail by the end of October 2015. The outline design is scheduled for approval by the end of December 2015 and this will be fed into the DCO application drawings. In Spring 2016 Joint Transport Board members will consider whether to approve the proposals for submission.

The phase 1 Metrowest public consultation took place over a six week period between June and July 2015. There were a number of public exhibitions that took place in the

following locations: Bristol, Pill and Portishead. In total, 850 responses were received and the Developer indicated that the responses were still being analysed as they contained a mixture of open and closed questions. However, the Developer outlined that a large proportion of the responses were positive about the proposed development.

The Developer provided a high level overview of the key issues arising from the consultation and discussion turned to parking provision at the stations and potential impact of on-street parking. The current proposed levels of parking, dependencies and restrictions at Pill and Portishead were discussed and explained. North Somerset Council indicated that they were not considering a residential parking scheme for Pill at the current time.

Land acquisition matters were noted in respect of parking provision, potential redesign of a footbridge and land and apparatus of statutory undertakers. The provisions of the Planning Act 2008 in respect of common land and open space were noted (s131 and s132).

The matter of Network Rail's permitted development rights (PDR) was noted and the Developer provided an outline of elements of the wider programme for works on Network Rail's operational land that could be delivered under Network Rail's existing rights. The red line boundary would likely extend to Parsons Street and the Development Consent Order (DCO) would seek powers to deliver as associated development works to the Portbury Freight Line, including in the Avon Gorge Woodlands Special Area of Conservation which had previously been identified as being delivered by Network Rail under PDR.

The Planning Inspectorate encouraged the Developer to adopt a consistent and clear approach to terminology associated with this project and with the wider MetroWest programme.

Matters in respect of the Scoping Opinion were discussed and some of the key queries regarding the scoping report were clarified including: electrification, decommissioning, construction impacts and phasing. The Planning Inspectorate stressed that a DCO is not equivalent to an outline application and that whilst the Rochdale Envelope approach could appropriately be used in some circumstances, the application does require a level to detail to enable the likely impacts to be properly assessed.

The developer outlined the following programme of: statutory consultation (s42) in January – February 2016 with the preparation of a draft Development Consent Order early 2016 and likely submission in summer 2016. The Planning Inspectorate strongly encouraged the developer to consider sharing a suite of draft documents with them.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

Suggestion for the next meeting to be held before the end of the year with a subsequent meeting programmed for after the next round of consultation. There was discussion about a potential separate meeting to discuss matters relating to Habitats Regulations Assessment and preparing the Book of Reference.