

Meeting note

Project name	Cambridge Waste-Water Treatment Plant Relocation (CWWTPR)
File reference	WW010003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 July 2020
Meeting with	Anglian Water
Venue	Teleconference
Meeting objectives	Project update
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 explained that it had been undertaking a round of informal consultation in advance of publishing a Statement of Community Consultation. This consultation would last for 6 weeks and, along with further technical and environmental information would feed into the site selection process.

The Inspectorate asked how the Applicant was handling consultation fatigue given other projects and developments in the area and the current public health restrictions. The Applicant stated it was in ongoing engagement with local groups and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local planning authorities to maintain alignment and ensure complimentary messaging across different consultations.

The Applicant explained it planned to hold stakeholder workshops with community, statutory bodies and other local organisations and detailed how it had been undertaking consultation which included, but was not limited to mailshots of up to 14,500 properties, virtual events, an online engagement platform, webinars, online meetings and information in local media, a phone line and contact with hard to reach groups.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to take reasonable and proportionate steps to enable engagement from members of the public and referred the Applicant to the [Infrastructure Planning \(Publication and Notification of Applications etc.\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(the 2020 Regulations\)](#) and [guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects](#).

Programme

Once the current round of informal consultation has been completed, the Applicant intended to finalise the site selection and submit a request for a Scoping Opinion to the Inspectorate in Winter 2020. The Inspectorate noted that the Applicant need not include overly detailed information about previous and subsequent consultation activities in its scoping request unless they were relevant in informing the request for the Scoping Opinion.

The Applicant went on to say it intends to hold two further rounds of consultation which would be statutory and that it would present its Preliminary Environmental Information at the next consultation.

The Applicant anticipated submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be in summer 2022.

DCO

The Applicant said that it was considering the submission of a request for a direction under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) from the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The Applicant explained that in its' view the project was a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to section 29(1) of the PA2008 but it considered sensible to provide certainty of timescales in relation to the delivery of the project given its national significance.

The Applicant explained that it is mindful that this will be the first project of its kind to seek a development consent order and noted that the Thames Tideway Tunnel is the only other project in the field of waste water to apply for development consent and that was a project which was specifically named in the Waste Water National Policy Statement (NPS) 2012.

The Applicant considered the project to be of national significance in any event due to the strategic importance and need to relocate the plant, required by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils and outlined by the Greater Cambridge Planning Service in its draft Area Action Plan. The Applicant stated that the project would contribute to the economic strength of the region and the national significance of Cambridge which had been recognised by Government's Homes England which had been funding the relocation of the WWTP to unlock these benefits and accelerate housing to Cambridge. The Inspectorate suggested that the Local Impact Report would be a useful tool to explain the interaction of the project with the Action Area Plan and Homes England funding, and that any consultation material should also set out these distinctions.

The Inspectorate stated that it was unable to advise on section 35 directions and encouraged the Applicant to contact DEFRA prior to seeking a section 35 Direction.

The Applicant noted that it intended to have quite a detailed design at the point of submission to ensure that, if a DCO was granted, pre-commencement discharge requirements would be limited and it would be able to start construction relatively quickly.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate to arrange a meeting in early 2021