



## Meeting note

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| <b>Status</b>             | Final  |
| <b>Author</b>             | Siân Evans   |
| <b>Date</b>               | 19 September 2014  |
| <b>Meeting with</b>       | Horizon  |
| <b>Venue</b>              | Temple Quay House, Bristol   |
| <b>Attendees</b>          | Kieran Somers (Horizon)<br>Mark Wilson (The Planning Inspectorate)<br>Siân Evans (The Planning Inspectorate) |
| <b>Meeting objectives</b> | To discuss Horizon's pre-application consultation  |
| <b>Circulation</b>        | All attendees  |

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Statement of Community Consultation was published week commencing 15 September in English and Welsh. The first stage of consultation starts on 29 September and is open for 10 weeks, closing on 8 December.

In the draft consultation documents Horizon referred to the creation of a number of jobs and the Planning Inspectorate advised there is likely to be a lot of interest in this aspect of the project locally. It would be advisable if Horizon think about the range and nature of questions that the local community and others would be asking about the local employment opportunities, so their consultation team are well briefed ahead of the PAC1 consultation.

The Planning Inspectorate queried whether the consultation documents included associated development, which would be dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA), or whether it only included the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) elements of the proposed development. Horizon confirmed that it included both so that the communities could understand the full scale of the project. Horizon advised that they have included brief information about the 2 separate processes but the Planning Inspectorate thought that it might be useful to include a simple diagram to show the different jurisdictions of the NSIP and TCPA regimes in a future newsletter or publication. This could also highlight the links between the NSIP and associated development such as the ES and Main Consultation Report. Horizon advised that they would consider including a simple diagram like this in future newsletters or leaflets.

The Planning Inspectorate advised that it is useful for other parties if Horizon are open about how they have weighted different factors in identifying the various options in

terms of the associated development and more generally. This was a key lesson learned from the HPC application in Somerset.

Horizon explained that they are only translating summary documents into Welsh. The Planning Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to get early written agreement from the Welsh Language Commission that this is an acceptable approach in order to inform future stages in the process.

Horizon showed the Planning Inspectorate a list of consultation questions. The Planning Inspectorate suggested that a question asking how people would like the consultation responses to be fed back should be included. The Planning Inspectorate advised that it was important for consultees to be informed about what issues had been picked up from the first round of consultation, even if Horizon are not in a position to say what they are going to do. This can be a reasonably straight forward task of highlighting general themes and issues which have come through strongly from the consultation. It is important in helping to build confidence that Horizon are listening to the community. If this is not done there is a danger that comments given in the first stage of consultation will simply be repeated in the second stage because people are not clear that their concerns have been captured from the first round.