

Meeting note

Project reference EN010071 – North London Heat and Power

Status Final

Author Stella Perrett

Date 29 August 2014

Meeting with North London Waste Authority (NLWA)

Venue Temple Quay House, Bristol

Attendees

Developer

Ursula Taylor (NLWA)

Anita Kasseean (Stephenson Harwood)

Euston Ling (NLWA)

Nicola White (Arup)

Planning Inspectorate

Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead)

Iwan Davies (Case Manager)

Will Spencer (EIA Adviser)

Stella Perrett (Assistant Case Officer)

Meeting

Objectives To gain an understanding of the project and identify risks

Circulation Meeting attendees

Summary of Key Points and Advice Given:

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate ('the Inspectorate') outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008. Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Overview of the proposal

The applicant explained that it is a statutory authority that is responsible for the disposal of waste collected from the seven North London Boroughs: Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, and Waltham Forest. The London Borough of Enfield is the Local Planning Authority. The applicant confirmed that all the neighbouring boroughs are relevant local authorities under the Planning Act. The existing operator is LondonWaste Limited. NLWA has 14 members. The seven boroughs each appoint two members to the NLWA, who take decisions for NLWA but are entitled to take into account issues affecting their respective local areas and

the boroughs pay a levy to fund the NLWA. They have a joint waste strategy in place up to 2020.

The Planning Inspectorate asked for diagram setting out the reporting and decision making structures between the various authorities in relation to bringing forward this application.

The applicant described the existing site, its location, and operations:

To the South is the A406 North Circular Road and across the road is a large site known as Meridian Water, earmarked for a housing development of up to 5000 new homes. The applicant has been studying projections of the proposed changes in the area to inform cumulative impact assessments.

The proposal is for a replacement Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) to treat all of NLWA's residual waste. The existing plant will be demolished in stages as the new facility is ramped up. The site currently deals with 550,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum.

The Planning Inspectorate asked if the old and new plants would operate concurrently during the transition period and that such arrangements should be set out clearly in the draft DCO. The applicant said they did not expect a transition period to last longer than a year during commissioning but with both facilities operating for not more than a few months.

The applicant advised that the existing energy from waste facility has an electrical output of about 35MW and the new replacement facility is expected to produce in region of 70MW, along with waste heat. Including commissioning they expect construction to take three years.

Grid connection statement and gas statement

The Inspectorate asked whether any gas or electricity grid connections would be required. The applicant advised that it has a current agreement relating to its connection to the National Grid, which covers them up to an output of around 70MW¹. NLWA is currently in discussions with UKPN to see what is required. It also has an existing gas connection which they consider will be sufficient]. The Inspectorate advised that this would need to be explained in a grid and gas connection statements to be submitted with the application

The Inspectorate asked whether their project will have any works affecting the North London Lines pylons in the Lee Valley adjacent to the site. The applicant confirmed they will not.

Combined heat and power

The existing energy from waste facility handles waste not suitable for recycling and the heat generated is used to turn water to steam which powers the turbines. The

¹ **Post-meeting comment by the applicant to PINS:** The agreement covers the applicant up to an output of about 60MW at present and the applicant expects there is a chance it may be able to continue with that agreement depending upon the capacity of the current infrastructure and future on-site electrical demand.

applicant advised it is in active talks with bodies that are working on a heat network for the area (that heat network is not being promoted by NLWA and will not form part of NLWA's application for a DCO).

Anticipated transport movements

The site currently has an access from Advent Way to the South. The applicant is developing proposals for other points of access. The applicant advised that it anticipates there will be the same or similar traffic movements in and out of the site. The London borough of Enfield has produced a Supplementary Planning Document which includes the Meridian Water Masterplan. The applicant will consult with Transport for London over traffic scoping for their Environmental Statement.

Restoration

The Inspectorate asked if there would be any restoration of the land following demolition of the existing ERF. The applicant said the whole site is a strategic waste site and that this is envisaged to continue.

Draft development consent

The Planning Inspectorate sought details on a number of matters regarding the proposed development consent:

Scope of application including associated development

The applicant said they are working within the principles of a Rochdale Envelope approach, where flexibility would be sought on the final design of the scheme. The applicant advised that design and development is still in progress. The Planning Inspectorate advised that the DCO must be clear what is integral to the proposal, what is considered associated, and why.

Powers sought

NLWA are still considering if they will need any Compulsory Acquisition powers.

The Planning Inspectorate also asked whether the applicant envisaged any applications for or work under sections 52 or 53 in relation to access to land. The applicant advised that it is still considering this aspect.

Other consents

The Planning Inspectorate asked if the applicant required any additional licences or consents and advised that it is useful to have an early list of any consents required. The applicant said there are already several consents in place across the site and they may be applicable to the new project. The Planning Inspectorate asked the applicant to advise if they intended to seek consents under s150 of the Planning Act 2008 and if so to flag them up early.

Approach to consultation

Informal stakeholder consultation to date

NLWA said they had already been consulting relevant bodies on an informal basis and have held on-going meetings. These bodies included: the Environment Agency, Transport for London, Greater London Authority, Thames Water, the London Borough of Enfield (the LPA) and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, who are not a Statutory Party but are their neighbour.

Proposed approach to Section 42 and public consultation

The applicant is currently preparing their Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). It also advised that it is seeking a PPA (Planning Performance Agreement) with Enfield Council.

The Planning Inspectorate advised that when an application is submitted, the Inspectorate requests views on, and has to have regard to all responses on adequacy of consultation from host and neighbouring local authorities. The applicant advised that the 7 North London boroughs are members of the NLWA, but they will also be talking to all relevant local authorities.

The consultation and submission programme is as follows:

- Finalise their SOCC and submit a request for Environmental Impact Assessment scoping by November 2014.
- First round of statutory consultation is due to start in November followed by a second round in May 2015, following the Inspectorate's guidance.
- Draft documents are expected to be available between March-July 2015.
- Submission of the application to PINS in Q3 2015.

Hard to reach communities

The applicant is using an existing list of community groups they consult and are talking to the London Borough of Enfield about consulting harder to reach groups.

Environmental Impact Assessment / Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Inspectorate asked the applicant to consider the effectiveness of specific mitigations in their Environmental Statement, in case further investigations are needed. The Inspectorate asked the applicant to send GIS shapefile information two weeks before the Scoping Request.

EIA referred the applicant to Advice Note 10 (Habitat Regulation Assessment) as they are close to a European Wetlands Site (Walthamstow reservoirs):

Draft documents

The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it can comment on the draft HRA Report, the draft DCO, the Consultation Report and Plans, but not the whole ES. Advised the applicant to consider early anything that may take time to resolve at the pre-application stage such as land access issues, extra ES surveys. The Inspectorate also advised the applicant to ensure contingency for handling responses to

consultation that sought further information or where scheme changes required additional consultation.

Future engagement with PINS

The Planning Inspectorate referred the applicant to its pre-application prospectus and advised drawing up a Contact Plan. NLWA suggested that these start next year. The project will be in the public domain by November and the applicant may seek further advice PINS on their draft consultation material and the draft SoCC.

The Planning Inspectorate also referred NLWA to the Consent Services Unit for assistance on how other consents dovetail with the development consent order timetable

The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that the Meeting Note will only be published after the application goes public, or a scoping opinion is sought.