



Meeting note

File reference	EN010087
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	13 June 2017
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Siân Evans (Case Officer) Richard Kent (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Vattenfall Helen Jameson Joanna Clements
Meeting objectives	Thanet Extension project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate continued by outlining its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Applicant discussed their project timetable. They advised that, to assist with alleviating resourcing pressures on statutory consultees, they may stagger the publication of their Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to avoid this clashing with the Norfolk Vanguard project timetable. The Inspectorate welcomed this approach. The Inspectorate enquired whether the change in timing, which may result in fewer tourists being captured in the consultation, affects what is proposed in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The Applicant confirmed that it did not. Initial conversations with local authorities regarding approach to the SoCC have taken place, and the document is now in drafting. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider how they may wish to consult seasonal visitors to the area. They also advised the Applicant to consider extending the consultation period as, for example, it

may take longer for the owner of a holiday let property to receive consultation material.

The Applicant advised that they are having positive discussions with the Port of London Authority (PLA) over the layout of the development. The PLA have offered use of their navigation bridge simulator to better assess the impact of Thanet Extension on sea room availability for pilot transfers. The Applicant intends to take up this opportunity and is attempting to agree arrangements with PLA.

A Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) is in place with Dover District Council, and the Applicant is close to agreeing similar with Thanet District Council and Kent County Council.

The Applicant advised that they intend to establish a committee of local representatives to advise on opportunities for investment, and agree how best to allocate any funding that might be made available in the event the project moves forward to construction. This may be through contribution to local causes, or investment in skills development and education. Through ongoing community engagement activities, the Applicant has been made aware of an increasing number of local investment opportunities and is keen to take community representatives advice regarding which are likely to provide the most value locally.

The next Evidence Plan Steering Committee meeting is in London on 26 June 2017. It was agreed that the Inspectorate could dial in to this and the Applicant will chair the meeting. The next onshore and offshore topic group meetings will be held 11 and 12 July 2017.

The Applicant is hoping to have an Agreement for Lease in place with The Crown Estate (TCE) before submission of the application, however exact timescales are unknown at this point. TCE recently conducted a 90 day consultation on proposed criteria for applications for bilateral award of Agreement's for Lease.

The Applicant has a signed connection agreement with National Grid from 2027 onwards. They are still in discussions with them regarding the connection arrangements for the period of time before this. An Agreement to Vary the current connection agreement to 2021 is expected to be received from National Grid within the coming weeks.

The Inspectorate advised that it is useful to have a project website and email address for an applicant so that consultees know who to contact if they have any queries.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

It was agreed that the teleconference on 4 July will be cancelled so the next teleconference is on 1 August. A face-to-face meeting will be arranged following the close of the consultation period. [post meeting this teleconference was cancelled. The next teleconference is arranged for 5 September 2017].

The Applicant will send a link to the project page on their website so that this can be added to the Inspectorate's website. [completed]