

FAO Tracey Williams  
Ref EN010092  
National Infrastructure Planning  
The Planning Inspectorate  
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**Your Ref:** EN010092

**E-Mail:** [dm@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:dm@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Date:** 2 July 2021

Dear Ms Williams,

## **Planning Act 2008**

**Ref:** EN010092

**Proposal:** Flexible Generation Plant comprising gas reciprocating engines with electrical output totalling 600 MW; batteries with electrical output of 150 MW; gas and electricity connections; the creation of access roads and a causeway; and creation of habitat and exchange Common Land

**Location:** Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant Fort Road Tilbury

### **Deadline 5A**

Further to the above I write to you to provide a response to the points listed in the final examination timetable attached as Annex A from the Inspector's letter dated 9 June 2021 for Deadline 5A.

- *Notification by of wish to be heard at CAH;*
- *Notification of wish to be heard at OFH;*
- *Written Representations on accepted changes and proposed provisions;*

At present Thurrock Council do not wish to be heard at the additional Compulsory Acquisition Hearing nor the additional Open Floor Hearing but we would like to be part of the invitation to listen into these hearings and have the opportunity to comment on any matters if required to. The representations provided in Thurrock Council's Local Impact Report Addendum, submitted at Deadline 5, sets out the Thurrock Council position with regard to the material amendments to the application regarding to the additional AIL access.

- *Comments on Relevant Representations received on the accepted changes and proposed provisions.*

Following a review of the Relevant Representations made in respect of the material amendments to the application regarding to the additional AIL access Thurrock Council has no comments to make to these representations.

- *Any other information requested by the ExA for submission at Deadline 5.*

Further to Thurrock Council's Local Impact Report Addendum I wish to provide some additional information regarding the reference to the Thames Freeport.

In terms of the background information, following the Chancellor's announcement that the Thames Freeport was one of the eight successful Freeport bids, all parties (including Thurrock Council) are working closely with government towards designation following the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case process, alongside the formal designation of Tax and Customs sites. Tax and Customs sites were identified at the time of the bid (see: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/990321/Freeport\\_Location\\_Maps.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990321/Freeport_Location_Maps.pdf)) and the work is ongoing to finalise these sites with government in line with guidance.

The current timeline MHCLG are working to for designation of Freeport status is:

OBC development	Summer 2021
Tax sites confirmed	From Summer 2021
Customs sites confirmed	From Autumn 2021
FBC development	Autumn 2021

It should be noted that Thames Freeport is a key priority for Thurrock Council as it will provide many benefits to Thurrock and the wider area with significant investment opportunities, provision of jobs and further establishing Thurrock's important role to the national economy.

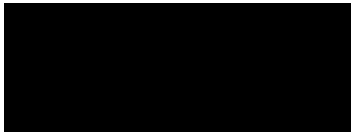
Paragraph 3.6 of Thurrock Council's Local Impact Report Addendum refers to the Thames Freeport and reference is made to Policy CSTP28 (River Thames), which seeks to promote the economic and commercial function of the river including safeguarding of land for riverside development and port related uses. This policy would be relevant should there be any future planning applications for the Thames Freeport.

The weblink attached above refers to the Thames Freeport and although the plan is at a broad scale it does show the existing Port of Tilbury land and the proposed 'Tax and Customs Sites' which would wrap around the main part of the applicant's DCO site, which is Zone A where Works 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 are proposed. There are Zone's and Works in the DCO application which would pass through the proposed 'Tax and Customs Sites' and these include roads (from Station Road and the Causeway), the gas pipeline and water supply connections. It is currently not clear what the proposed 'Tax and Customs Sites' would involve in terms of development and land uses but should there be any further information published in advance of the closure of the Examination I shall bring this to the Inspector's attention.

Finally, as stated before, given the alternative access arrangements for ALL's put forward by the applicant for using the Port of Tilbury it is Thurrock Council's preference for this alternative access arrangement to be used instead of creating the Causeway part of the proposed development. It is noted that other Interested Parties in this DCO process have expressed similar concerns regarding the proposed Causeway. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Inspector gives this careful consideration through this DCO process.

I trust that this information is of assistance and should wish to contact me regarding the content of this letter then please use the email address provided.

**Yours sincerely**

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Chris Purvis.

**Chris Purvis**  
**Major Applications Manager**