



Meeting note

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| Project name | Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility |
| File reference | EN010110 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 10 February 2022 |
| Meeting with | MVV Environment Ltd / Wood plc |
| Venue | Microsoft Teams Meeting |
| 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.

Submission Date

The Applicant stated that they are still targeting a submission date either at the end of the first quarter of 2022 or early April 2022. The Applicant advised they will keep the Inspectorate updated on any changes to the submission date.

Correspondence with Network Rail

The Applicant advised they require permission for a steam pipeline to be run alongside land owned by Network Rail. The Applicant advised that they are currently compiling a document for Network Rail to provide an overview of the application and a history of the communication between themselves and Network Rail. The Applicant stated that their next meeting with Network Rail is scheduled to take place in mid-March. The Applicant plans to request a Statement of Common Ground with Network Rail to demonstrate the discussions carried out ahead of submission.

The Inspectorate queried if the submission date is reliant on the progress of agreements with Network Rail. The Applicant advised yes, to a certain extent, but if the clearance process hasn't completed by submission, they will look to still submit the application with a Statement of Common Ground included with the submission.

The Applicant advised that through their correspondence with Network Rail, there is no formal plan to re-instate the railway line at this time, only a theoretical re-instatement of the line.

National Highways and Cadent Gas

The Applicant advised they have had positive engagement with National Highways and that an agreement had been reached to utilise the verge along the A47 to remove the need for Compulsory Acquisition of additional land. The Applicant has also had a joint meeting with the relevant internal drainage board and will be putting together a Statement of Common Ground. The Applicant has permission for horizontal directional drilling as they will need to go under the A47 to reach the towns water supply.

The Applicant has advised they have had a positive conversation with Cadent Gas as the project is likely to cross a number of gas lines of varying pressures. The Applicant advised that Cadent Gas will ask to be a relevant representative during the application process. The Applicant also plans to organise a call with Openreach.

New Land Interests

The Inspectorate queried if there will be any new land interests. The Applicant advised there are no new interests in relation to the grid connection.

In the previous meeting the Applicant had been in discussion with UK Power Networks regarding sub-station arrangements to occupy part of their land for placement of equipment. However, the Applicant has concluded that they will not need to occupy outside the red line boundary and will therefore not need to carry out any further targeted consultation.

Contact With Local Authorities

The Applicant stated that they are continuing to engage with the relevant local authorities. The Applicant advised that Cambridgeshire County Council have requested a type 4 LVIA (Landscape and Visual Assessment). The Applicant will send surveyors out to undertake building surveys to ensure common ground between parties. The Applicant approached the Host Authorises for comments on the employment and skills strategy and received feedback from Norfolk County Council.

Contact From Councillor and MP

The Inspectorate stated that correspondence was received from a local Councillor who represents Kings Lynn South raising concerns about the project and the project's consultation zone. The Applicant advised that they have not yet engaged directly with the Councillor but that they did offer to give a presentation at a previous date, but the Councillor did not take them up on this.

The Inspectorate also advised the Applicant that a letter had been received from a local MP stating that they had not received a reply to a letter and an accompanying report that had been commissioned which highlighted their constituents' concerns about the proposal and was sent in August 2021.

The Applicant advised their Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), agreed with the relevant local authorities, indicated they would not be replying to individual letters, but they would instead address key concerns and questions via a project update on

submission. Furthermore, the Applicant believes that they have been proactive in consulting local wards/communities.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide evidence in their Consultation Report of their proactive approach to consulting the local community and their attempts to engage.

Submission Information and Advice

The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant plans to submit any draft documents for review. The Applicant advised that their current programme does not allow for extensive reviews but they may aim to get the front end of the Consultation Report to the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate advised that the turnaround for review of draft documents would be four weeks and asked the Applicant to highlight anything novel to review. The Applicant will talk to Pinsent Masons regarding anything that is deemed novel in the DCO (Development Consent Order). The Inspectorate advised during the preparation for submission, to ensure that land plans read across correctly to the Book of Reference and that the information in the work plans read across accurately to the draft DCO. The Applicant advised that Carter Jones and Pinsent Masons are working on this on their behalf.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make sure a peer review is completed against the s55 checklist before submission and there may be benefit from providing the s55 checklist to someone impartial and not directly involved in the project to determine if it provides answers to key points for an external reader.

The Inspectorate also advised the Applicant to consider the submission date and potential clashes with the Easter holiday period. As part of the Acceptance checks the Inspectorate will need to ask local authorities for their views whether they think the Applicant has fulfilled its consultation duties. If this is conducted over the Easter period it may cause delays on responses due to the holiday period.

The Inspectorate advised that submission will be electronic by file transfer, but the Applicant can liaise with the Inspectorate further at a later time if they require advice on this.

Hearings and Venues

The Inspectorate advised that if the Application is accepted for Examination, that some of the Hearings may be conducted in a blended format (both physical and virtual events). This means the Applicant will need to think about venues and audio-visual providers. The Inspectorate explained that a blended format for the hearings should support public engagement of those that may be digitally disadvantaged.

The Applicant queried if they need approval from the Inspectorate for any venues. The Inspectorate advised there are requirements that venues will need to meet and that a requirements form can be sent to the Applicant when scoping for potential venues.

The Inspectorate advised that the timeframe for the Acceptance period is 28 days from the date of submission of the application. If the project is accepted for Examination, the Application then enters the pre-examination period which is generally a three to four month period.

The Applicant advised that, if their Application is accepted, they plan to then establish a local liaison committee. The purpose of this will be to provide a forum where Interested Parties can come and directly ask the Applicant questions.

Further Communication and Meetings

The Inspectorate also advised that letters will be sent out to the Applicant regarding fees and the GIS shape file at least a month before submission.

The Applicant requested a short 30-minute meeting/discussion with the Inspectorate between now and submission to discuss the logistics of submission. The Inspectorate stated that this is something that the Case Manager can carry out by a telephone call rather than a whole team project meeting.

