

# Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Cory Decarbonisation Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN010128
<b>Status</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	17 July 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	Cory Environmental Holdings Limited (CEHL)
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

## Project introduction

The Applicant (Cory Environmental Holdings Limited) explained they are a collaboration of partners which include LDA Design, WSP, Ardent Group, Camargue. Pinsent Masons are their legal adviser.

The Applicant stated that it is a leading recycling and waste management company that is uniquely river based. It operates on the River Thames and processes 71,000 tonnes of recyclable and 785,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste used for energy recovery. This then allows for 78.5 MW power to be generated. The Applicant also confirmed that 800,000 tonnes is also shipped along the river per year (including ash). The goal is to meet the Net Zero program by 2040.

The Applicant hopes to meet its goal by increasing the throughput (850,000tpa) and output (up to 80.5MW) at Riverside 1 and to have Riverside 2 operational by 2026. It is expected that Riverside 2 will reach c.650,000tpa nominal throughput and 76MW power. This will mean an increase in the recycling capacity at Barking, an increase in river freight to 1.5milliontpa and a district heat network, in partnership with Vattenfall. Therefore, resulting in a carbon negative Energy from Waste (EfW) process by 2040.

The Applicant pointed out that the Proposed Development would have a significant impact on cutting emissions by using carbon capture technology, it would be able to capture 1.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. The Applicant confirmed they are currently in discussions with technology providers who specialise in carbon capture.

The Applicant stated that its plans are still in the early stages. The Cory Decarbonisation Project will be located close to the energy recovery facilities at Belvedere, on land to the south, accessed via Norman Road. The Applicant confirmed that the site layout and technical design work is underway. The emerging proposals include an option of building

on part of the Crossness Nature Reserve which adjoins Riverside EfW Campus. It was clarified that discussions are being held to find suitable replacement habitat either on or off site. One of the options for a new jetty is located to the east of the Middleton Jetty, replacing the former Belvedere Power Station jetty, which is now redundant. The Applicant explained that once carbon has been captured, compressed and liquified, it would be pumped to the new jetty and then shipped to the North Sea for safe storage in depleted oil and gas reservoirs.

The Applicant also stated that during operation of the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Project, traffic would be limited to operatives and maintenance vehicles.

The Applicant has been engaging with LDA Designs along with key stakeholders, including Thames Water, regarding the plots of land to the south of Riverside 1 and 2. Different layout options are being explored as well as biodiversity plans. The Applicant emphasised the importance of replacing any nature reserve and biodiversity land which may be needed for the Proposed Development.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant how the discussions with Thames Water were progressing. The Applicant confirmed discussions with Thames Water were taking place and include matters relating to Crossness Nature Reserve, water supply capacity and discharge, mitigation, and landscaping.

### **Early Adopters Programme – Next steps**

The Inspectorate gave an overview of the EAP and elaborated on the components engaged by the Applicant.

#### Programme Planning

This is a mandatory component of the EAP. The Applicant must prepare a Programme Plan for publication on its website in order that stakeholders may understand, and where relevant contribute towards, key milestones in the build up to the submission of the application. The Applicant is expected to update the plan if/ when changes to the programme occur.

The Applicant must also proactively share with the Inspectorate and principal consultees (e.g., statutory consultees) a detailed Programme Plan which establishes when service interactions will be requested to occur e.g., meetings, review and feedback. All requested interactions associated with the EAP components engaged must be agreed in the detailed Programme Plan.

The Inspectorate requested for the public Programme Plan to be published on the Applicant's website within two weeks.

#### Issues Tracking

The Inspectorate would provide the Applicant with a template for issues tracking. The Inspectorate established that this template could be refined by the Applicant to suit the individual circumstances of the project. The issues tracker should be proactively shared by the Applicant with the Inspectorate and relevant consultees prior to interactions.

## Policy Compliance Document

The Inspectorate explained the scope and purpose of the Policy Compliance Document. It is for the Applicant to respond to the brief in terms of how to develop this product, with input from relevant consultees as appropriate. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would be able to review and feedback on draft iterations of this document as they become available within the remainder of the pre-application stage.

## Design Approach Document

The Inspectorate explained the scope and purpose of the Design Approach Document. It is for the Applicant to respond to the brief in terms of how to develop this product, with input from relevant consultees as appropriate. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would be able to review and feedback on draft iterations of this document as they become available within the remainder of the pre-application stage.

## Outline control documents

The Inspectorate would provide the Applicant with a template CEMP developed for the onshore elements of offshore wind farms. The Inspectorate established that it may seek to develop equivalent templates for different sectors. On this basis it would be for the Applicant to prepare well-developed outline control documents to accompany its application. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would be able to review and feedback on draft iterations of these documents as they become available within the remainder of the pre-application stage.

## **Design update: Terrestrial/Marine**

The Applicant provided an overview of engineering design for the CCS Project. It was stated that the storage columns are still being developed in design to ensure the best option visually and practically.

The Applicant explained that new infrastructure would be required to facilitate the export of liquified carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). There has been ongoing engagement with onsite storage providers around where the liquified CO<sub>2</sub> will be kept. Geological storage of the captured CO<sub>2</sub> would be located under the North Sea.

The Inspectorate asked how advanced the Applicant is in their discussions with storage providers in the North Sea. The Applicant clarified that discussions are still ongoing and that nothing has been agreed at this stage.

The Inspectorate queried whether the Hydrogen Project (as described in the Applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report) remained part of the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) scheme. The Applicant explained that discussions were ongoing, but that it was focusing on its priority aim of decarbonising and moving towards dropping the Hydrogen Project from the DCO scheme. This will be formally addressed at a later stage. The Inspectorate noted that the Hydrogen Project forms part of the description of the Proposed Development within the Secretary of State's Section 35 Direction and queried whether the Section 35 Direction would need to be removed or rewritten if the Hydrogen Project is dropped. The Applicant will update the Inspectorate on this at the next meeting.

If the Hydrogen Project no longer forms part of the DCO scheme (or no longer forms part of the DCO scheme but could potentially be pursued under a separate consent), the

Applicant was advised to consider the implications for the assessments in the Environmental Statement (ES) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The Applicant confirmed it was considering this matter.

### **Non-Statutory Consultation**

The Applicant shared with the Inspectorate its findings from the recent non-statutory consultation running from Monday 05 June to Friday 14 July. Three events were held along with a webinar. There were 52 attendees in total but no formal feedback. Various promotion methods were used such as emails and posters. A website was created and visited 309 times. The Applicant plans to hold a second Non-statutory Consultation in Autumn 2023, focusing on the design and layout.

### **Project Programme - key stages and timings for this NSIP project**

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate of an updated programme. It confirmed the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) is currently being put together and that it intends to submit the DCO application by March 2024.

The Inspectorate requested if the submission date was absolute. The Applicant said that this was a solid date. This is to ensure that all ongoing projects are not impacted and maintain progress for all developments.

### **AOB**

The Applicant confirmed that it was planning on submitting draft documents to the Inspectorate for review (as part of the standard pre-application service). The Inspectorate outlined the draft documents it is able to review, which include the draft HRA, draft DCO and draft ES project description chapter.

The Applicant and the Inspectorate to agree the frequency of future project update meetings.