

Meeting note

Project name	Rivenhall IWMF and Energy Centre
File reference	EN010138
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	16 January 2023
Meeting with	Indaver
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees/ named 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 Overview

The Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) and Energy Centre application is an extension to a generating station that initially obtained planning permission under the Town and Country Planning regime in 2008. Indaver (the Applicant) acquired the site in 2021 with site development works having commenced in April 2022. The proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) scheme is seeking to increase the generating capacity to 65MW using more efficient boilers and turbines.

The Applicant confirmed that the existing building footprint and waste throughput will remain the same compared to the extant planning permission. The Applicant confirmed that Compulsory Acquisition is not required and that the existing Grid connection has capacity, so no new grid connection is required.

The Applicant's aims to commission the project during 2025 and for it to be fully operational in 2026. With regard to the nationally significant infrastructure (NSIP) regime, the Applicant anticipates submitting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request in March 2023, undertake statutory consultation in quarter 2 2023 and submit the application in Q4 2023. The Applicant confirmed it is aware of the local authority elections in May 2023.

Approach to consultation and engagement

The Applicant explained its consultation activities to date, including an overview of communication with statutory bodies.

Monthly meetings with local authorities have been agreed. The formal consultation period will run for six to eight weeks, within a 5.5-kilometre consultation zone (to be agreed).

Individuals and organisations within this zone will be notified directly with a consultation letter. Consultation materials and other information regarding the process will be displayed in local, regional, and national newspapers as well as on the Rivenhall IWMF website and in set locations in the area. Feedback will be taken through written letters, the website or in person at the Rivenhall information centre.

The Applicant explained current engagement plans with Essex County Council and Braintree District Council, and it will be sharing draft Statements of Community Consultation (SoCC) at the end of January 2023. The Applicant will hold two to three events, including a virtual exhibition to display information and make provisions for in-person/ telephone discussions with the project team as part of the consultation events. The Applicant also intends to set up monthly meetings with statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency to discuss matters around the approach to environmental assessments etc.

Regarding non-statutory consultation, the Applicant updated the Inspectorate, stating that Community Liaison Groups will continue to meet on a regular basis and a consolidation of the SoCC with the public and stakeholders is underway. The Applicant will also work to identify any hard-to-reach groups that may require alternative engagement methods.

Approach to environmental assessments

The Applicant plans to engage with key stakeholders, including local authorities and the Environment Agency, ahead of the submission of the EIA scoping request.

The Applicant confirmed that the EIA for the NSIP would align with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The Scoping Report will also be informed by environmental information obtained from the initial Town and Country Planning (TCPA) application and environmental permits.

The Applicant identified air quality as the main community concern and that this matter is likely to be an area of key focus for the scheme going forwards. The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant had identified any potential effects on European sites and any need for with Habitats Regulation Assessment, to which the Applicant indicated there were no such issues that they were aware of at this stage (and in the knowledge of the existing TCPA consent).

The Applicant anticipated that the PEIR will take the form of a draft of the Environmental Statement.

Advice from PINS

The Inspectorate queried vehicle movements on site and whether a method is in place to control movement. The Applicant confirmed that a planning condition attached to the existing TCPA consent is in place which limits vehicle movements

and their tonnage. The Applicant stated their intention at this stage that they would not seek to vary these as part of the DCO scheme and that they will therefore be factored into the environmental assessments.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to draft the DCO and explanatory memorandum in such a way as to clearly explain how the Order interfaces with the existing TCPA permission and its attached planning conditions.