



Meeting note

File reference	EN020015 and EN010007
Project	North Wales Connection project and Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station project
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	24 May 2017
Meeting with	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Kay Sully (Case Manger) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Pauleen Lane (Group Manager National Infrastructure) Isle of Anglesey County Council Dylan Williams Efan W. Milner Annwen Morgan IoACC
Meeting objectives	Isle of Anglesey County Council's resource planning for the North Wales Connector and Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station projects.
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (the Council) team 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 Council (or others) can rely.

Background

The Council set out its overarching position regarding the North Wales Connection (NWC) and Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station (Wylfa) projects. The Council stated it is fully committed to supporting both projects through their examination. The

Council clarified that it is likely to be formally objecting to NWC being built on the island and stated its preference for an underground cable option. The Council also raised concerns regarding Wylfa's third round of consultation (PAC3) and the timescales given for responses to the consultation documents. The Inspectorate informed the Council that it was aware of the Council's concerns around the timescales and has raised this with the Applicant for Wylfa.

Delegation of powers

The Inspectorate advised the Council to seek delegated powers for their officers for the submission of written responses during the examination of the applications, as there is unlikely to be time to seek committee approval for local authority representations during the examination. The Council confirmed that it is working on a report requesting delegated powers with the aim of having the delegation signed off before the Wylfa application is submitted to the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate informed the Council that council members can register to become Interested Parties (IP) in their own right, although they should make clear to the Examining Authority in what capacity they are submitting representations (eg on behalf of the local authority/ themselves/ their constituents). The Inspectorate's [Advice Note 2: The role of local authorities in the development consent process](#) contained further useful information on these issues.

Submission and examination timescales

The submission timescales for Wylfa and NWC were discussed. The Inspectorate confirmed that it is working on its internal resourcing for the projects. The Inspectorate informed the Council that it is expecting NWC draft documents week commencing 12 June 2017. The council confirmed that it has had sighting of some early drafts of the NWC application and that there is a stakeholder group meeting planned for week commencing 4 June 2017 for the NWC project.

The Inspectorate clarified to the Council that both projects would have different panels working on the projects and that the projects will have two separate examination timetables. The Inspectorate explained that as the projects have not been submitted it cannot highlight at present any potential resource overlaps between the projects. However the Inspectorate is looking into hypothetical examination timetables to try to identify and mitigate any potential resource intensive clashes between the two projects. It was further clarified that the Inspectorate could not influence the submission date of an application but that it had some control over when the Preliminary Meeting (PM) would be held.

The Inspectorate explained that the function of the PM was to discuss how the project would be examined and not to discuss the merits of the project. It was further clarified that the examination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects is mainly a written process and that hearings are only used to discuss specific issues that couldn't be resolved in writing only. The hearings are usually scheduled at certain intervals during the 6 month examination. The Inspectorate reassured the Council that it would take into account any clashes between the projects with regard to hearings and deadlines when drafting the timetables. The Council was recommended to review the Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station and the Richborough Connection Projects' Rule 8 letters and examination timetables to get an understanding of timescales and the Council's involvement in the examination.

Venues to be used during the examination

The Inspectorate explained that it is currently scoping venues for both projects and is intending to conduct an unaccompanied site inspection prior to submission to assess the suitability of the venues. The Council advised that for Wylfa it would not be politically acceptable to hold hearings in Bangor however for NWC it may be acceptable for some. The Council did not think Holyhead would have any suitable venues. It was agreed that the Council would send a list of potential venues in north Anglesey to the Inspectorate.

It was clarified that the Inspectorate would not need an office at the Council during the examination. It was clarified that for the Issue Specific Hearings the location ideally would be located somewhere that can be accessed by public transport whilst the Open Floor Hearings (if requested) are usually held closer to the local community that requested them if appropriate venues are available. It was agreed that the Council would look into whether there were any large venues on Anglesey that could be 'converted' into hearing venues during the examination.

Size of the Examination Authority

The Inspectorate advised the Council to look at the DCLG guidance [Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent](#) (pages 6-7) with regard to the criteria applied when deciding whether an application is examined by a single examining authority or a panel. It was suggested that each Panel would comprise of 4 or 5 members.

Local Impact Reports (LIR) and Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant confirmed that it was already working on LIRs and SoCG with the Applicants for the two projects.

Welsh Language

The Inspectorate confirmed to the Council that it was taking into account the time it would take to translate documents when scheduling the examination and that the Applicants for the two projects would provide simultaneous translations during the PM and hearings. The Council expressed a wish to have all documentation bilingual. It was agreed that the Council would send across its guidance on what to provide in Welsh to aid the Inspectorate when making its decision on what to translate into Welsh.

Any Other Business

The Council explained that it is currently going through a restructuring process (relating to the team/ officers that would be dealing with the two projects/ examinations) and that it would send the Inspectorate a list outlining who is responsible for what parts of the projects.

The Council was recommended to work closely with the Applicants during the examination to ensure that issues could be resolved early on. The Inspectorate informed the Council that it was advising the Applicants for the two projects to share all documentation early with the Council both in pre-application and during

examination. It was confirmed that the Applicants had entered into Planning Performance Agreements with the Councils. It was further clarified that the funding from the two projects had different timespans.

The Council confirmed that there was a meeting planned with the Welsh Government about the third Menai bridge scheduled for June.

Specific Actions/Follow ups

- The Inspectorate to provide the Council with any published s51 advice regarding delegated powers
- The Inspectorate to send the Council weblinks to the Hinkley Point C New Power Station and Richborough Connection Projects Rule 8 letters.
- The Council to send the Inspectorate dates of any annual events in the local area and wider Wales that might impact on the examination timetable.
- The Council to send the Inspectorate a list of potential hearing venues in north Anglesey. [Post meeting note: this has since been received]
- The Council to send the Inspectorate a contact list for the officers working on the project.