

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN
Sent via email to: SouthamptontoLondonPipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

FAO Mr Hefin Jones

Adequacy of Consultation Response
The Planning Act 2008

Application No: 19/00805/NEW
Your reference: EN070005
Proposal: Adequacy of Consultation for Application by Esso Petroleum Company Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Southampton to London Pipeline Project

Location: Southampton to London Pipeline Project

Thank you for your email dated 14 May 2019, providing Runnymede Borough Council with the opportunity to comment on whether the applicant has complied with the following duties:

- Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – section 42
- Duty to consult the local community – Planning Act 2008 – section 47
- Duty to publicise – Planning Act 2008 – section 48

Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – section 42

Runnymede Borough Council acknowledges that the Applicant has undertaken a series of statutory and non-statutory consultation as the Project design has evolved. Given the nature of the Project, crossing several Borough and district boundaries the interactive mapping system on the Applicant's website has been helpful. Runnymede Borough Council continues to be in dialogue with the Applicant regarding a number of matters including the Statement of Common Ground and compensation for the works going through land owned by Runnymede Borough Council. In regard to communications with RBC as a landowner, consultation has been comprehensive with written communication, calls and meetings. Given the size of the project team at Esso and the fact that the Council needs to represent different interests as part of ongoing consultation, it would have been helpful to have a contact list of the project team at an early stage.

Officers consider it necessary to point out that the Applicant could have made further effort to engage with tenants using land owned by RBC, instead it is understood that the view taken was that once the landowner was notified of the development proposal it was their responsibility to

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inform the tenants and the impression has been that without RBC's assistance, the views of those tenants may not have been heard.

Lastly, Officers are not aware of any specific consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and note that it is not available on the SLP website. It would have been helpful following every stage of the design amendments if the PEIR was updated or at the very least made available for review, so that anyone new who may have become aware of the project could see the information available and consider the impacts being put forward by the Applicant. There has been some confusion over how the impacts of the proposal may be mitigated and what is defined as necessary and what is being done voluntarily. It is now understood that Esso will be undertaking an Environmental Investment Programme but to date, the contents of this are unknown and therefore Officers wish to express that they consider that the dialogue between parties should continue after the application is accepted.

Duty to consult the local community – Planning Act 2008 – section 47

Runnymede Borough Council was consulted on the Statement of Community Consultation and requested that a number of other groups should be consulted in addition to the information put forward in the SoCC. Esso amended the SoCC accordingly and confirmed that the exhibition programmed should be held at Chertsey Hall (see page 108 of consultation report). As it was not clear what contact had been made with resident groups in the Borough, in the January 2019 design refinement consultation RBC's response included a list of local resident groups but again it is not clear what, if any, contact has been made with any of those groups.

However, it is noted that the Applicant consulted the community through a number of events and by sharing information online and at local libraries. Generally it is acknowledged that the Applicant has undertaken a willingness to engage with the community to make the project known and update all on how the design has evolved. Officers did not attend any of the forum events and therefore cannot comment on the adequacy of the consultation information provided at the community events.

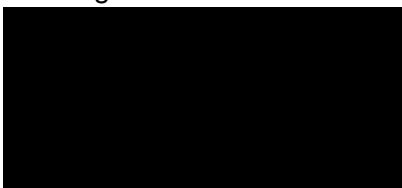
Duty to publicise – Planning Act 2008 – section 48

RBC has no comments on the applicant's compliance with the S48 of the Planning Act 2008 although it is noted that Esso state that they did not receive any responses that could be identified as being in response to publicising the application.

Overall, RBC considers that the applicant has made adequate provision for the pre-application consultation on the Development Consent Order application and has complied with its duties under S42, S47 and S48 of the Planning Act 2008. It is understood that this view does not prejudice the Council's view on the merits of the project which will be considered once the application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the case officer Lucy Rees on 01932 425131.

Signed:



Ian Maguire
Head of Planning

Date of decision:

28/05/2019