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Dear Gareth Leigh

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Esso Petroleum Company Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline Project and associated infrastructure (“the Pipeline Project”)

Thank you for requesting updates on the Hart Local Plan and the Crondall Parish Neighbourhood Plan, and whether any adopted policies have a bearing on the pipeline project.

Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 (HLP32)

The HLP32 was adopted on 30 April 2020 and as such is part of the development plan.

- Policy SS2 allocates a large site for a new community of 1,500 homes at Hartland Village. Within this site a temporary logistics hub is proposed as part of the DCO. The issues relating to this have been set out in the Statement of Common Ground between Hart District Council and the applicant. There is nothing to suggest that any new issues arise as a result of the Local Plan being adopted.
- Policy NBE4 Biodiversity (attached) requires a net gain in biodiversity where possible with new development (see criterion c). I am aware that biodiversity net gain, and whether it applies to NSIPs, has been an issue at the examination and so I bring this policy to your attention.

The Local Plan is available at <https://www.hart.gov.uk/adopted-plans>

Crandall Parish Neighbourhood Plan (CPNP)

The CPNP gained Cabinet approval on 5th March 2020 to proceed to referendum. However, given the current Covid-19 situation all referendums have been postponed until May 2021. As the Plan has been approved for referendum it has considerable weight in the determination of planning applications, but it is not yet part of the development plan.

The only policy to flag up is Policy 6: The Natural Environment (attached) which supports net biodiversity gains. This is flagged in case biodiversity net gain is a relevant consideration.

The Crandall Parish Neighbourhood Plan is available at https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/3_Visiting_Hart/Towns_and_parishes/Crandall/Crandall%20NP%20Version%20March%202020%20with%20HDC%20comments%20updated%2015%20April_FINAL.pdf

Yours faithfully



Daniel Hawes
Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager

Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032

Policy NBE 4 Biodiversity

In order to conserve and enhance biodiversity, new development will be permitted provided:

a) It will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of an international, national or locally designated site including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and National and Local Nature Reserves (NNRs and LNRs). The level of protection afforded to these sites is commensurate with their status within this hierarchy and gives appropriate weight to their importance and contribution to wider ecological networks.

b) It does not result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss;

c) Opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity are taken where possible, including the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations. All development proposals will be expected to avoid negative impacts on existing biodiversity and provide a net gain where possible.

If significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, or, in the case of European Protected sites does not comply with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, then planning permission will be refused.

Crondall Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Policy 6: The Natural Environment

The protection and enhancement of wildlife areas, measures to sustain and improve biodiversity and net biodiversity gains will be supported. Development should respect important views and the distinctive local character of the Neighbourhood Area's landscape. The enhancement of public rights of way will be supported, as will measures to mitigate the impacts of, and adapt to climate change.

Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Where development is demonstrated to be necessary such areas, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. The provision of sustainable drainage systems will be supported.