



Meeting note

File reference

Status

Final

Author

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Date

21 June 2016

Meeting with

Highways England (HE)

Venue

Teleconference

Attendees

Highways England (HE)

Wole Odetola – Highways England (PM for all A47 schemes)

Aaron Douglas – Highways England (Assistant PM)

Nick Atkinson (A47 Stakeholder Manager)

Yasmin Esmail – Amey (PM for Wansford to Sutton)

Tony Wallis – Amey (PM for North Tuddenham to Easton)

Andy Heap – Amey (Programme manager)

Katelyn Naidoo – AECOM (PM for A47/A12 junctions)

Richard Quantick – AECOM (PM for Thickthorn)

Tom Bennett – Amey (PM for Blofield to North Burlingham)

Cathryn Nunnery – Amey (PM for Guyhirn)

Jon Brittain – Amey (PM for Guyhirn)

The Planning Inspectorate

Susannah Guest – Infrastructure Planning Lead

David Price – EIA Manager

Callan Burchell – Assistant Case Officer

Meeting

objectives

A47 Project Update (Teleconference)

Circulation

All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy that any advice given will be recorded and published on the national infrastructure website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA 2008) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.

Introductions were made by everyone present, and individual roles were explained.

Progress Update

The developer (Highways England) provided a project update on all projects within the A47 programme since the previous meeting with The Planning Inspectorate. All projects are still within the optioneering stage, but the developer noted an early indication that at least four projects in the overall A47 programme are likely to trigger the thresholds in PA 2008 and therefore require Development Consent Orders. The developer explained that early stakeholder engagement has been continuing and meetings with interested groups are scheduled throughout the summer, including meeting with a group of MPs in July.

Wansford to Sutton

The developer highlighted that there are still 9 route options for this project of the A47 programme and noted that they include offline and online options. The developer noted that they have had engagement with Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss the options.

Guyhirn Junction

The Inspectorate queried whether there has been progress regarding the environmental sensitivities on this project of the A47 programme. The developer informed the Inspectorate that they are in discussion with stakeholders including Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency to address matters discussed in the previous meeting.

The developer noted that work is on-going to determine the appropriate consenting route for the proposed junction improvements and that they hoped to be able to confirm the route by the end of the year. There was a discussion about how the provisions of PA 2008 s22(5)(c) might be interpreted. The Inspectorate explained how the National Infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations apply in relation to EIA screening of developments. The Inspectorate stressed that screening opinions made under the Regulations determine whether a proposal requires an EIA to be undertaken and not whether a proposal is a nationally significant infrastructure project or not. The Inspectorate drew attention to Advice Note 7 and the A19 Coastal Road which was a non-EIA scheme but was still examined through the PA2008 process. The Inspectorate also highlighted the service available under the pre-application prospectus and highlighted that they can review and provide s51 Advice on a suite of draft documents, which may include particular chapter of a draft Environmental Statement.

North Tuddenham to Easton

The developer provided a brief update on this project of the A47 programme. The developer informed the Inspectorate that they are intending on conducting non-statutory consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, Parish Councils, and the immediate and extended communities in early 2017 to discuss three options for this section of the scheme.

The Inspectorate queried whether there has been any progress regarding the proposed regional food hub planning application. The developer informed the Inspectorate that the planning application is likely to be determined in early 2017 by the relevant Local Authority. The Inspectorate queried whether this would have an impact on any of the options. The developer explained that some of the options could

be directly affected but that they were intending to engage in dialogue with the other developer.

Thickthorn Junction

The developer outlined the current uncertainty in respect of the appropriate consenting regime noting that they are considering offline and online improvements and depending on the result of the Preferred Route Announcement, this would ultimately determine whether the scheme will trigger the PA 2008 threshold.

The developer highlighted that they are creating a strategic traffic model for the projects in this location including North Tuddenham, Blofield and Thickthorn.

Blofield to North Burlingham

The developer informed the Inspectorate that on the current proposals, this project of the A47 programme is likely to trigger the thresholds of PA 2008.

A47/A12 junction enhancements

The developer provided a project overview of these projects in the A47 programme.

Follow up / specific decisions

See link to Advice Note Seven [here](#).

Further project update meeting scheduled for 13 July 2016.