



Meeting note

File reference

Status

Final

Author

Susannah Guest

Date

12 October 2016

Meeting with

Suffolk County Council

Venue

WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff Offices, 70 Chancery Lane, London

Attendees

Michael Wilks – Suffolk County Council

Suzanne Buck – Suffolk County Council

Tim Earl – Suffolk County Council

Colin Turnbull – WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

Paul McGimpsey – WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

James Page – WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

Kate Ward – WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

Susannah Guest – The Planning Inspectorate

Meeting**objectives**

Project introduction – Upper Orwell Crossings

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 developers (or others) can rely.

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

Project Introduction

The Project Team provided a presentation covering the following topics: project team; project history; project description; policy background; stakeholder engagement; informal consultation; constraints and; programme and dependencies.

Key areas for discussion are noted below.

Project team

The Project Team explained the Governance structure and the clear separation of responsibilities and functions between the Upper Orwell Crossings project team and Suffolk County Council's status as a PA2008 s43 authority 'relevant local authority'. The Inspectorate queried whether the information in respect of the separation of function was in the public domain.

Project history

The Project Team provided an overview of the project to date, noting in particular the s35 Direction by the Secretary of State that directed the project to be considered under the PA2008 regime. The Project Team also explained public engagement activity to date regarding the evolution of the project.

Project description

The Project Team outlined the 3 key elements of the project, being a new road crossing to the south of Wet Dock Island, a new road crossing of the New Cut and an improved crossing (for cyclists and pedestrians) over the Prince Philip Lock. It was noted that the s35 Direction had stated that the latter two elements should be treated as associated development. The discussion noted the importance of how these 'associated' elements were described and justified throughout the application documents. There was a discussion around the existing functions and powers of Suffolk County Council as a Highway Authority and what should appropriately be included with a Development Consent Order to allow the impacts of the project to be properly assessed and to provide clarity around what consent might ultimately be granted for and what relevant requirements might be needed.

Project timescale

The Project Team anticipated that a Scoping Request might be submitted to The Inspectorate in early 2017 and that final submission of the application might be towards the end of 2017.

Engagement and consultation

The Project Team provided an overview of stakeholder engagement and non-statutory consultation with local communities to date. The Project Team explained Stage 1 non-statutory consultation with local communities had taken place over summer 2016 with material being placed on the Suffolk County Council website and events being held around the town. A Community Consultation Statement had been produced and Suffolk County Council saw this as being a valuable precursor to a Statement of Community Consultation required for the scheduled Stage 2 statutory consultation in 2017.

Other developments in the area

The Project Team outlined the on-going dialogue with ABP, owners of the operational port and leisure marina. The Project Team explained that ABP was going through its own masterplanning process and it was anticipated that this should be concluded either late 2016 or early 2017. The Inspectorate queried the relationship with potential land owners and opportunities or challenges from phasing development in the area. The Project Team noted that engagement was on-going with key potential landowners and they were working closely with ABP on the principles of the project.

Environmental survey works

The Project Team provided an overview of survey works completed to date, or in the pipeline, as part of the Preliminary Environmental Appraisal. Matters briefly covered

included assessment of cumulative effects, air quality and noise monitoring, land contamination and ecology.