

## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	TR010002
<b>Status</b>	Final
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<b>Meeting with</b>	Highways Agency, Jacobs and Cheshire East Council
<b>Meeting date</b>	22 June 2010
<b>Attendees (IPC)</b>	Kathryn Powell, Kay Fry, David Price and Gideon Amos
<b>Attendees</b>	Highways Agency – Anna Pickering, Mohammed Swapan Jacobs – Simon Begley Cheshire East Council – Beverly Wilders, Phil Mason
<b>Location</b>	Cheshire East Council offices, Macclesfield

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	Inception meeting to discuss the requirements of the pre-application process and any outreach events, followed by an accompanied site visit.
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<b>Summary of key points discussed</b>	<p><b>1. <u>Introductions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed the IPC's openness policy and the commitment to publishing any advice under s51 of the Planning Act ("the Act") on the IPC's website. Confirmed that the IPC are unable to give legal advice – promoters should seek their own legal advice on which they can rely.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. <u>Scheme overview (Highways Agency)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amended preferred route announcement was published in March 2010.</li> <li>Currently finalising scoping report with ongoing work on surveys for the EIA. Intention to start to write the environmental statement towards the end of summer 2010.</li> <li>Looking at an alternative link for pedestrians and cyclists to reduce barrier effect by separating strategic and local traffic - through the de-trunking of a section of the current A556 and the removal of the majority of traffic on it onto the new A556 - aim to make the current route more attractive to non-motorised users. Options to do this still are under consideration.</li> <li>Undertaken two consultation exercises and keeping logs of the discussions and responses.</li> </ul>
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- SSSI constraints identified possible changes to public and private rights of way
- The scheme is still currently in the design phase.
- Initial internal work on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is due to commence during the autumn of 2010.
- IPC invited representatives of Cheshire East Council to advise on what stage the Development Plan (comprising the Local Development Framework together with the Regional Spatial Strategy) had reached in the authority's area. An update was provided.

### **3. Process overview (IPC)**

- IPC went through the process requirements in accordance with the Act.
- IPC emphasised the importance of consulting with statutory consultees on the provisions and requirements contained in the draft development consent order (DCO).
- IPC advised the Highways Agency to show how the proposal may have altered as a result of the previous consultation.
- Cheshire East Council raised concern about the requirements for them to respond within the 28 day acceptance period, IPC assured Cheshire East that as a matter of good practice, IPC will ensure they are aware of the submission date in advance.
- IPC explained the purpose of the preliminary meeting and emphasised that this meeting is to discuss how the application will be examined, all interested parties are invited to attend.
- The primary method of examination is through written representations, however an open floor hearing or compulsory purchase hearing will be held if requested and if the examining authority deem it necessary, a specific issue hearing may be held.
- The Coalition Government has decided to abolish the IPC and replace it with a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit (MIPU) within the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This will require primary legislation as part of the Localism Bill which is likely to complete its parliamentary passage in the second half of 2011. Current IPC operations are running with no interference.
- The changes the Government plans to make will include a continued fast-track process for examining major infrastructure proposals, as well as transitional arrangements ensuring that there will be no delay to applications made to the IPC

	<p>before it is abolished.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until legislation is enacted, the IPC will continue to operate within the framework of the Planning Act 2008. If a National Policy Statement has been designated, the IPC will be the decision maker; if the NPS has not been designated, the Secretary of State will be the decision maker.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>4. Timescales</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Highways Agency advised their consultation should be carried out (s42 and s47 jointly) at the beginning of 2011 but will know more in the next 2-3 months once Government announcements have been made.</li> <li>• The Highways Agency has conducted consultations in line with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation which specifies at least 12 weeks.</li> <li>• Notification of submission of the scoping request will be given to the IPC when the Highways Agency is in a position to do so.</li> <li>• Submission of application is anticipated in 2011.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>5. Outreach</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed further outreach (in accordance with the IPC's Advice Note 2) and the possibility of arranging the main outreach event to inform stakeholders of the process under the new regime.</li> <li>• Cheshire East and Highways Agency were asked to consider relevant interest groups and possible venues, IPC would chair the event.</li> <li>• Proposed timings for outreach - January 2011, further thought to be given to this.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>6. Site Visit</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of the IPC, Highways Agency, Jacobs and Cheshire East Council went to a number of viewing points for the proposed scheme. Please see attached plan for viewing points - <a href="http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/W-B1076602-B-WD-001-Rev-0.pdf">http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/W-B1076602-B-WD-001-Rev-0.pdf</a></li> <li>• IPC were advised of the current air quality issues related to HGVs. Other issues include accesses to private property (at the northern end of / throughout the scheme) the possible relocation of a parish hall, and resolving potential local objections</li> </ul>
<p><b>Specific decisions/follow up required?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further discussion regarding main stakeholder outreach event.</li> <li>• Highways Agency to notify IPC of likely date for submission of scoping request.</li> </ul>

<b>Circulation List</b>	All IPC attendees above
	Highways Agency, Jacobs and Cheshire East attendees as above
	Peter Bond – IPC communications