



Meeting Note

File reference	N/A
Status	Final
Author	Daniel Hyde

Meeting with	Norfolk County Council
Meeting date	January 23 2013
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Kathrine Haddrell (Case Leader) Gail Boyle (Environmental Services) Daniel Hyde (Assistant Case Officer)
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)	Ian Morris (Norfolk County Council) David Allfrey (Norfolk County Council) John Barnard (Norfolk County Council)
Location	Temple Quay House, Bristol

Meeting purpose	To introduce the Northern Distributor Road scheme to The Planning Inspectorate, and for The Planning Inspectorate to outline the application process.
------------------------	--

Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>Following introductions, The Planning Inspectorate outlined the openness policy that is used, and also how a meeting note will be taken and published on the Planning Inspectorate website.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate gave a brief description about how the case team will be allocated, along with the legal team and Environmental Services. The Planning Inspectorate also commented on how they want to see draft documents before the application is submitted.</p> <p>This was noted by Norfolk County Council (NCC) and proceeded to talk through the project and at what stage they are at in relation to pre-application work. NCC described the project in context with the Norwich Area Transportation Scheme (NATS) and how this project has come about due to the NATS. NCC also explained how the Northern Distributor Road (NDR) is in the joint core strategy for the area.</p> <p>NCC also confirmed they had secured funding from the Department for Transport (DfT), but they did comment on the fact that there is a condition attached to the funding. NCC was confident they will meet this requirement.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate enquired as to whether there was any associated development being submitted with the application. NCC explained the different infrastructure</p>
---	---

developments in the area but added that none of it was likely to come to The Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate enquired how the revised highways thresholds (currently the subject of consultation) would effect the NDR. Would it still be a NSIP? NCC advised they won't know this until a later date.

The Planning Inspectorate followed up by asking when NCC expects to submit the application for the NDR. NCC replied that they estimate it will be in the first week of November 2013.

NCC then explained the consultation they have undertaken already and also what more consultation they plan on conducting. The Planning Inspectorate then advised NCC on the requirements of the Act as they relate to pre application consultation. NCC also wanted to know if their previous consultation counts as pre-application consultation. NCC was advised informal consultation should be referred to in the Consultation Report if it explains how the scheme has evolved over time. This can help set the context for the formal consultation undertaken under the provisions of the PA2008.

A discussion over land rights, acquisition of land and the Book of Reference followed. NCC made it clear where they are in terms of the land issues.

The Planning Inspectorate cleared up some confusion over what the difference was between different notification letters. The Planning Inspectorate referred to sections of various Advice Notes that are available on The Planning Inspectorate website.

NCC advised The Planning Inspectorate that there was still work to be done on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The Planning Inspectorate made sure that NCC were clear on how they should carry out the consultation with the correct bodies, in order to avoid confusion over how local authorities should consult with different departments in their own authority.

NCC was aware of this, and was clear on who they should consult with.

It was also noted by PINS and NCC that a meeting between the different legal teams would be useful as soon as draft documents are available.

The Planning Inspectorate advised NCC that they should look at other Section 55 checklists on The Planning Inspectorate website.

The Planning Inspectorate also explained the role of an Examining Inspector in the process; this was then followed by an explanation of the process an application goes through.

NCC enquired as to whether most issues can be solved through Written Representations. The Planning Inspectorate then explained different issues that can arise on transport projects in general and then said how Examination in principle is a written process but explained the different hearings that are usually held. The Planning Inspectorate also explained how the acceptance stage is mainly administrative and procedural. The application is not examined at this stage, rather the case team checks to make sure the application contains all of the documents required and that the applicant has complied with the duty in the PA2008 to have had regard to the views expressed during the various types of pre application consultation. NCC wanted to be clear whether gaps can be identified in the draft documents. The Planning Inspectorate advised that if NCC submits draft documents such as the DCO and Consultation Report 6 weeks in advance of submission PINS would be able to identify whether there were any omissions or glaring problems. However, the onus is firmly on applicants to ensure they submit a complete and robust application.

NCC stated that a Scoping Request will be received by The Planning Inspectorate on 15 February 2013.

NCC commented that they did not plan to produce a Section 106 planning agreement.

NCC then wanted to know what associated development should be included in the application. The Planning Inspectorate advised that they should only include what they need to be able to construct and implement the NSIP. NCC explained how they are currently judging whether they will include some junction works which may be affected by the scheme. The Planning Inspectorate stressed how this needs to be clear due to the need for the red line boundary to include all the works required. The Planning Inspectorate also explained how the scheme can be changed at pre-application but there was very limited flexibility to make changes once it is submitted. NCC also wanted to know how precise the red line boundary needed to be when the scoping request is sent to The Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate advised that NCC should send what they believe to be the red line boundary which they will submit with the application.

NCC then showed The Planning Inspectorate the project programme and explained what they were planning to do and when. NCC explained when they were planning on conducting consultation and when the consultation report will

	<p>be finalised. The Planning Inspectorate gave advice on the consultation report and how The Planning Inspectorate has the power to request "raw" responses in hard copy if required, NCC noted this.</p> <p>The discussion moved onto environmental issues, NCC revealed there were bats in the area and that mitigation is being considered. NCC also advised that they have engaged various consultees with regard to licenses. It was also confirmed that there were no breeding birds or Sites of Special Scientific Interest along the route alignment. Although NCC did say they were monitoring all of the environmental issues on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>It was agreed that there should be an outreach event and also a site visit. (Dates to be confirmed)</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate thanked NCC for coming and was advised to contact Kathrine Haddrell with any further queries.</p>
--	---

Specific decisions/ follow up required?	None
--	------

Circulation List	All attendees