

## **A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)**

This document sets out the agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on the Interrelationship of Major Proposals in the Area, Environmental & Landscape / Visual Issues and Transport Matters, which I notified all Interested Parties (IPs) of in my Rule 8 letter of 21 August 2019 (Annex C).

**Date:** 16 October 2019  
**Time:** 10.00am, room opens from 9.30am  
**Venue:** **George Washington Hotel,**  
Stone Cellar Road,  
High Unsworth,  
Washington,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE37 1PH

**Access and Parking:** Free parking available on site

### **Purpose of Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)**

ISH2 is being held for the following purposes:

- To enable the Examining Authority (ExA) to inquire into the interrelationship between the Proposed Development and other major proposals in the area taking the local and strategic planning framework into account.
- To review environmental considerations including matters arising from the application documentation and representations relating to:
  - Air quality and emissions;
  - Biodiversity, ecology and natural environment;
  - Landscape / visual impact;
  - Noise; and
  - The water environment.
- To review transport matters arising from the application documentation and representations.

### **Participation, conduct and management of hearing**

This is the second ISH to be held in this Examination and the first to be held on broadly planning and environmental matters not directly related to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO).

Provision has been made for a further ISH (ISH4) into any outstanding broadly planning and environmental matters to be held on 10 December 2019. Please note that ISH4 will only proceed if it is required. If all necessary oral investigations are completed before that time, this ISH will not proceed. If ISH4 does proceed, it is likely to enable only supplementary questions to be asked by the ExA. It will not re-examine IP's objections or matters of principle arising in relation to the broad planning and environmental effects of the Proposed Development. For these reasons, it is important that any IP with outstanding objections or questions on the interrelationship of major proposals in the area together with environmental, landscape / visual issues and transport matters who wishes to be heard should attend this hearing.

The business of an ISH is limited to the matters identified in the agenda. Oral submissions on other subject matters or from persons who are not IPs may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA. It is strongly preferable that any such issues arising from IPs are brought to the Open Floor Hearing scheduled for the evening of 15 October 2019 where there is no subject matter agenda and IPs may raise any relevant and important matter.

Participation is subject to the ExA's power to control the hearing.

### *Invited Participants*

The ExA requests that the following bodies attend and participate in ISH2:

- **Highways England (the Applicant)** - including representatives of the Applicant who are in a position to discuss the matters on the agenda;
- **South Tyneside Council (STC)**
- **Sunderland City Council (SCC); and**
- **Any other Interested Parties (IPs)** – with a wish to be heard on topics in this agenda.

The ExA requests that invited participants who wish to make oral representations attend at the appointed start time of 10.00am.

### *Hearing Guidance*

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA.

Cross-questioning of the person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that a person has had a fair chance to put their case.

The hearing will run until all IPs have made their representations and responded to the ExA's exploration of the matters in accordance with the agenda set. The following agenda is indicative and may be amended by the ExA at the start of the hearing session. Furthermore, the ExA may wish to raise other matters arising from submissions and pursue lines of inquiry in the course of the discussion which are not on the agenda.

## **Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)**

- 1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)**
- 2. Relationships Between the Proposed Development and Other Major Proposals**

The ExA will ask the Applicant whether the effects of the Proposed Development and the effects of the following projects are in broad terms relevant to the assessment of the Proposed Development, with reference to the Applicant's document 'Interrelationship with Testo's Junction, A1 Birtley to Coalhouse Scheme and International Advanced Manufacturing Park', [AS-024]:

- a) The A19/A184 Testo's Junction Alteration Project
- b) The A1 Birtley to Coalhouse Scheme
- c) The International Advanced Manufacturing Park project
- d) Do any other projects need to be taken into account?

The ExA will ask whether there are any aspects of these or other relevant relationships that need to be taken into account but that have not been fully provided for in the application documents or the dDCO.

The ExA will invite submissions from IPs who wish to raise matters in relation to these items. It will wish to hear specifically from STC, SCC and IAMP LLP in relation to items 2(a) and (c) above.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

### **3. Environmental Effects**

The ExA will ask the Applicant questions in relation to the environmental effects of the Proposed Development on the following topics.

- a) Construction air quality – focussing on effects on nearby residential receptors.
- b) Operational air quality – focussing on effects on nearby receptors and on the air quality performance of the strategic highway network.
- c) Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment.
- d) Landscape and visual and related biodiversity and ecological impacts.
- e) Construction noise – focussing on effects on nearby residential receptors.
- f) Operational noise – focussing on effects on nearby receptors.
- g) Construction water quality – focussing on effects on the River Don and River Wear.
- h) Operational water quality – focussing on the risk of pollutants and accidental spills on the River Don and River Wear

The ExA will invite submissions from IPs who wish to raise matters in relation to these items.

Responses from the Applicant will be sought on all questions.

#### **4. Transport Matters**

The ExA will ask the Applicant to present the traffic case for the Proposed Development and explain how this led through option development to the preferred design which forms the Proposed Development.

The ExA will invite submissions from IPs who wish to raise matters in relation to this item.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

#### **5. Review of issues and actions arising**

The ExA will review how and by when any actions placed on the Applicant or other IPs are to be met.

#### **6. Next steps**

#### **7. Closure of the hearing**