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To all Interested Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010031

Date: 3 March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 and 16**

**Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent
for the A1 Birtley to Coal House Improvement Scheme**

Notification of hearings

I write to inform you that the following hearings will be held at the European Suite, Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel, MetroCentre, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 9XF:

Tuesday 31 March 2020

Open Floor Hearing (OFH1), 7.00pm (Doors open at 6.30pm)

Wednesday 1 April 2020

Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2) on matters relating to environmental, cultural heritage, traffic and transport matters, 9.30am (Doors open at 9.00am)

Thursday 2 April 2020

Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO (ISH3), 10.00am (Doors open at 9.30am)

Friday 3 April 2020

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1), 9.30am (Doors open at 9.00am). This hearing will conclude by 1.30pm.

Notifications of attendance

If you would like to attend any of the above hearings (even if you do not wish to speak) please inform the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team using the contact details above by no later than **Tuesday 24 March 2020**, indicating your wish to attend and the matters on which you wish to speak. It would also assist us if you could inform the Case Team of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing

loop etc). Please ensure that you include your Interested Party reference number in your correspondence. This is provided either in the email covering this letter or on the postcard you have received. An agenda for each of the hearings will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website in the week prior to the event taking place.

Notification of site inspection

Further to the Procedural Decision and Examination Timetable enclosed with my letter of 28 January 2020 I confirm that I will be undertaking an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) on **Tuesday 31 March 2020**.

A draft itinerary for the ASI was published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website on 6 February 2020. The final itinerary will be published as soon as possible and in any event in the week before the event. Please note that my site inspection is not an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the project or discuss evidence. It is an opportunity for me to look at the physical features that can be seen on, or from, the sites. Participants may be invited by me to point out specific features or sites of interest.

Important details about the hearings and the ASI are set out in **Annex A**.

In accordance with Rule 13(1) and (6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010, I am required to give a 21 day notice period for hearings. I request that the Applicant publicly notifies and advertises the hearing and ASI arrangements no later than 21 days before the events.

Please note that if any of the events scheduled at Annex A are no longer required or are cancelled reasonable notice will be provided to Interested Parties and I would advise that you should regularly check the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-birtley-to-coal-house-improvement-scheme/?ipcsection=overview>

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team

Yours faithfully

David Cliff

Examining Authority

Annex A - Dates, times and place for forthcoming ASI and Examination hearings

Date, time and meeting place for Accompanied Site Inspection

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) under Rule 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 on the following date:

Date	Meeting Place	Time
Tuesday 31 March 2020	Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel, MetroCentre, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 9XF	Start 10:00am

Attendees are requested to arrive at the meeting place by **9.30am** to receive a compulsory safety briefing and introductory remarks from the Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate. The ASI will commence as soon as possible after these remarks have been made.

The inspection may include some walking on uneven or wet ground. The Planning Inspectorate therefore advises attendees to wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather, and sturdy footwear.

If you wish to attend the ASI please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1BirtleytoCoalHouse@planninginspectorate.gov.uk **no later than Tuesday 24 March 2020** indicating your wish to attend and any special requirements you may have (eg: disabled access etc).

Open Floor Hearing 1

Please be advised that the ExA will hold an Open Floor Hearing under Section 93 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) on the following date:

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Tuesday 31 March 2020	European Suite, Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel, MetroCentre, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 9XF	7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)	To hear oral representations based on relevant or written representations

Please note that each participant will be provided with one opportunity to speak. **The ExA will not wish to hear submissions from groups or individuals repeated.**

If you wish to participate in, or observe, the Open Floor Hearing please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1BirtleytoCoalHouse@planninginspectorate.gov.uk **no later than Tuesday 24 March 2020** indicating your wish to attend, the topics in respect of which you wish to speak and any special requirement you may have (eg: disabled access, hearing loop etc).

Each Interested Party should assume that they will be allowed a maximum speaking time of 10 minutes in total for all submissions that they wish to make in this session.

Please note that in the event that there are an exceptional number of potential submissions, it may be necessary to be more restrictive.

If the ExA decides that it is necessary to provide an agenda for this hearing, this will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing.

Issue Specific Hearings

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold hearings under Section 91 of the PA2008 on the following dates:

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Wednesday 1 April 2020	European Suite, Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel, MetroCentre,	9.30am (doors open 9.00am)	Issue Specific Hearing 2 Dealing with matters relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental, cultural heritage, traffic and transport matters
Thursday 2 April 2020	Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 9XF	10.00am (doors open 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 3 Dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)

If you wish to participate in, or observe, any of the Issue Specific Hearings please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1BirtleytoCoalHouse@planninginspectorate.gov.uk **no later than Tuesday 24 March 2020** indicating your wish to attend, the topics in respect of which you wish to speak and any special requirements you may have (eg: disabled access, hearing loop etc).

Agendas for the Issue Specific Hearings will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing to which they relate taking place.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1

Please be advised that the ExA will hold a hearing under Section 92 of the PA2008 on the following date:

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Friday 3 April 2020	European Suite, Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel, MetroCentre, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 9XF	9.30am (doors open 9.00am) Hearing will close by 1.30pm	Dealing with matters relating to the proposed Compulsory Acquisition of land and rights, and proposed Temporary Possession powers

If you wish to participate in, or observe, the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1BirtleytoCoalHouse@planninginspectorate.gov.uk **no later than Tuesday 24 March 2020** indicating your wish to attend, the topics in respect of which you wish to speak and any special requirements you may have (eg: disabled access, hearing loop etc).

An agenda for the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing.

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