

A1 Birtley to Coal House Improvement Scheme

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 3: Water environment and drainage

Date: Tuesday 23 June 2020
Time: 2.00pm (Arrangements Conference at 1.30pm)
Venue: Virtual Hearing via Microsoft Teams

Introduction

Details on participation, conduct and management of the hearing are included in **Annex A** of this agenda and should be read by all participants in advance of the hearing.

If for any reason, including technical issues, matters are not concluded by the end of this hearing, a reserve hearing date has been provided on Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 9.30am (arrangements conference at 9.00am). This will only be needed if the ExA decides that it is necessary to hear further oral submissions from any party on any relevant matters.

All participants of this virtual hearing are requested to read the [Virtual Hearings Arrangements letter dated 11 June 2020](#).

Requested Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing.

- The Applicant
- Gateshead Council
- Environment Agency

The details set out below are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Agenda Items

- 1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing**
- 2. Brief update and summary of positions since Deadline 8 (including any recent discussions)**
- 3. Allerdene Burn**

Has agreement been reached on the naturalisation of the Allerdene Burn? If not what further changes are sought? (*Reference will be made to EXAD8004 Allerdene Burn - Channel design concept [REP8-026].*)

4. Silt control vortex separators

Has agreement been reached on protecting all affected watercourses with silt control vortex separators? If not what further changes are sought? (*Reference will be made to EXAD8005 Vortex Separators Assessment [REP8-027].*)

5. Any other matters water environment and drainage

6. Any other business relevant to the Agenda

Note: In circumstances where the ExA has been made aware of any technical difficulties around participation, it will provide an opportunity for persons who could not be heard on earlier agenda items to participate as necessary and appropriate.

7. Actions arising (including any procedural decisions if required) and next steps

8. Closing (it is anticipated that the Hearing will close by 4.00pm).

Annex A

Conduct and Management of Hearings

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Examination Procedure Rules provides that at Hearings it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning at the Hearing will therefore be led by the ExA. Parties wishing to make a representation will be invited to do so at the ExA's discretion.

The ExA will start the Hearing by making introductory comments, introductions and running through housekeeping matters and how the Hearing will be conducted. The ExA's expectation is that the Hearing will typically last for one to two hours. However, the actual duration will depend on the progress made on the day and will be subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the Hearing.

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 Agenda may be amended by the ExA at the start of the hearing session. Furthermore, the ExA may wish to raise matters arising from oral submissions, Relevant Representations and Written Representations, and pursue lines of inquiry in the course of the discussion which are not listed on the Agenda.

The Hearing is being held at the discretion of the ExA to consider matters that it considers to be important and relevant to the effective and robust examination of the application. Consequently, the business of a Hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA..

Oral participation is at the invitation and discretion of the ExA. Oral submissions must address the matters, issues and questions identified in the hearing agenda and raised by the ExA at the hearing. Oral submissions on other subject matters or from persons who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance or time efficiency.

If for any reason, including technical issues, matters are not concluded by the end of this hearing a reserve hearing date has been scheduled for Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 9.30am (arrangements conference at 9.00am). This will be at the discretion of the ExA and it may be decided to pursue further representations in writing rather than through an additional hearing.